

How to Cite:

Damdoom, S. H., & Mohammed, H. S. (2022). The emergence and development of Nassiriyah Municipality 1869-1915 researchers. *International Journal of Health Sciences*, 6(S5), 9932-9949. <https://doi.org/10.53730/ijhs.v6nS5.12101>

The emergence and development of Nassiriyah Municipality 1869-1915 researchers

Prof. Dr. Shaker Hussein Damdoom

Thi Qar University, College of Art, Department of History, Graduate Studies,
Modern and contemporary history, IRAQ

Email: shakerdamdoom@yahoo.com

Husam Salah Mohammed

Thi Qar University, College of Art, Department of History, Graduate Studies,
Modern and contemporary history, IRAQ.

Email: H07802419109@gmail.com

Abstract---This research discussed the issue of the emergence and development of the Nassiriyah municipality, and the research included most of the work carried out by the Nassiriyah municipality in all areas that were related to it, such as building roads and providing public services to the city of Nassiriyah such as medical and educational services, as well as its supervision of the elections of the Council of Representatives. The research also touched on the history of the establishment of the Nassiriyah municipality, which is the year 1869, that is, it opened in the same year that appeared in the city of Nassiriyah after Medhat Pasha issued an order to build a metropolis called the metropolis of Nassiriyah h after Nasser Pasha al-Sa'adoun. The research also focused on the financial resources of the Nassiriyah municipality, including the taxes, which were varied, as they included agricultural crops, the bridge usage tax, and others.

Keywords---Nassiriyah, Municipality, Muntafiq.

Introduction

When writing about the history of a city, social and economic services and their development cannot be neglected for this city. Despite the large number of academic studies and historical writings that focused on the history of the city of Nassiriyah in its various aspects, the need remained to write about topics that were not written about, especially topics related to social and economic services. Which is of great importance in our daily life. Among these topics is (the municipality), whose importance lies through its active role in all the details of human life, and the consequences of bringing out the city in a civilized manner,

as well as protecting the city from pests and diseases, as well as elucidating the echo of the years about some of the eternal days that it lived Nassiriyah is the stubborn city, and it can be said that the city of Nassiriyah was separated from some cities and the Sanjaks by forming a municipality department. In addition to its political duties in supervising the elections (Council of Envoys).

The research was divided into several paragraphs that dealt with the concept of the term municipality and the formation of the municipal council in the city of Nassiriyah from 1869-1915, then it turned to the tasks of the municipal council in the city of Nassiriyah. The research also focused on the financial resources of the Nassiriyah municipality.

The research relied on a group of unpublished Ottoman documents, as well as the Ottoman peace's and government publications. As well as important historical sources related to the subject, including the thesis of the researcher Lama Abdel Aziz Mustafa Abdel Karim entitled (Public Services in Iraq 1869-1918), and the letter of the researcher Yassin Shihab Shukri Entitled (The Wilayat of Baghdad 1872 - 1909. A Study of its Administrative and Economic Conditions).

The Emergence and Development of the Nassiriyah Municipality 1869-1915 **First: The Concept of the Term Municipality:**

The structure of the municipal system was based on the Hesbah system in the time of the successive eras of the Islamic State, which means enjoining good and forbidding evil. Under the title (Al-Hisbah), as is evident from the duties you perform⁽¹⁾.

The Supreme Council for Reform during the reign of Sultan Abdul Majeed (1839-1861) formed a special committee to study the possibility of creating and Forming municipal departments in the Ottoman Empire. The capital, Istanbul, in 1858 ⁽²⁾, then followed by the issuance of laws and regulations that would organize municipal affairs in the Ottoman Empire, according to which the functions and work of the Municipal Council were determined. The first Ottoman law related to the establishment of municipal councils in the various Wilayat of the Ottoman Empire was issued in Rabi'al-Awwal 23, 1284 AH, corresponding to July 24, 1867 AD, and it was formulated in nine articles that include how to form the municipal council, the conditions that must be met by members, council meetings, the functions and duties of municipal department employees, and the municipality's revenues and expenses⁽³⁾.

During the reign of Midhat Pasha (1869-1872) he tried to codify the calculation fees and make them run a legal biography ⁽⁴⁾, as the municipality was known in Turkish dictionaries as a government department concerned with public affairs in

⁽¹⁾ Ahmed Al-Rujabi Al-Husseini, History of Baquba Municipality in the Ottoman Era, Volume 1, Baghdad, 1972, P. 44.

⁽²⁾ Luma Abdel -Aziz Mustafa Abdel Karim, Public Services in Iraq 1869 - 1918, an unpublished PhD thesis, College of Arts, University of Mosul, 2003, P. 132.

⁽³⁾ The Ottoman Organizations Group published under the name (Al-Dustour), translated by: Nawfal Ni'matullah Nawfal, revised and proofread by Khalil Al-Khoury, Volume One, Beirut, 1301 AH, PP. 432-438; Jamil Musa Al-Najjar, The Ottoman Administration in the Wilayat of Baghdad from the Reign of Governor Midhat Pasha to the End of the Ottoman Rule 1869-1917, 2nd Edition, Baghdad, 2001, P. 229.

⁽⁴⁾ Abbas Al-Azzawi, The History of Iraq between Two Occupations, Volume 7, Beirut, 2004, P. 194.

every city or hasbah, and the most important thing it does is to organize markets, Opening and cleaning the streets, providing all the city's needs such as health services, water, electricity, firefighting and price control, and it has its own administrative system headed by the mayor and assisted by a municipal council consisting of six to twelve individuals, and their work term is four years ⁽⁵⁾ and it is an honorary body whose members are elected By secret ballot from the municipality's group of voters, the number of these members is according to the municipality's classification. The council, which consists of ten members, is of the first category, which has eight members of the second category. According to these regulations, the municipal council in the city of Nassiriyah became of the second category after a period from its establishment⁽⁶⁾.

Second: Formation of the Municipal Council in Nassiriyah 1869-1915:

After the issuance of the Ottoman Law of Provinces in 1864, which entered into force in 1869 in Iraq during the rule of Midhat Pasha, it was accompanied by the organization and division of tasks in every formation of government departments, including municipal departments ⁽⁷⁾, and development and modernization did not stop in municipal legislation, it contained a management system Public Wilayat issued on Shawwal 29, 1287 AH corresponding to January 21, 1871, a special chapter on municipal councils In Wilayat , provinces and districts, how they are formed, the conditions that must be met by their members, the functions and duties of municipal employees and councils, and the municipality's revenues and expenses ⁽⁸⁾.

In order to complete the picture of organizing municipal councils in the Ottoman era, the Ottoman government issued the Municipal Councils Law on 27 Ramadan 1294 AH corresponding to October 5, 1877 AD. Limited to the council members in the cities where municipalities were established, it has become inclusive of all individuals who meet the conditions, as the municipality was composed under this law of a department and a municipal council consisting of elected members ranging from (6-12) members, and the government appoints One of these members as the mayor and the municipal council⁽⁹⁾.

Both researchers in the affairs of the Ottoman Empire in the period of the Tanzimat, the American Rodric Davison and the British Bernard Lewis, believe that the Ottoman Empire did not take a serious direction in spreading municipalities in the cities and towns of its Wilayat and districts, until after the issuance of the law of 1877⁽¹⁰⁾.

⁽⁵⁾ Shams al-Din Sami, Turkish Dictionary, the feet of Ci Press, Dar Saada, Istanbul, 1317 AH, P. 301.

⁽⁶⁾ Hussein Al-Rahhal and Abdul Majeed Komeneh, Central Administration and Local Administration in Iraq, Baghdad, 1953, PP. 284-285.

⁽⁷⁾ Ali Shaker Ali, Administrative Formations 922 - 13365 AH / 1516 - 1918 AD, Mosul Civilization Encyclopedia, Volume IV, Mosul, 1992, P. 169.

⁽⁸⁾ Al-Dustour , vol. 2, PP. 412-418.

⁽⁹⁾ For more information on this law, see: Ministry of Interior, Law of the Municipality of Eilat and other laws, Baghdad, 1925, PP. 5-22; third ed. C5, Beirut, 1983, PP. 133-134.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Rodric Davison, Reform in the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey, Vol2, Cambridge University Press, 1977, P.160; Bernard Lewis, The Emergence of Modern Turkey, London, 1961, P.392.

According to the Wilayat Administration Law of 1871, which defined the tasks and powers of municipal councils, the mechanism of their formation and the number of members in them, it separated its legal articles from the basic formation of the municipal council in each state, as its basic articles stipulated the formation of a municipal council in every city, according to basic conditions, the most important of which is the following: **"In the second article of the aforementioned law, which emphasized the formation of a municipal department in each town, the population of which reached forty thousand people"**⁽¹¹⁾.

The new Municipalities Law of 1877, which included ten chapters formulated in (67) articles. Special for the municipality and treasurer. The other employees were replaced every year. As for the natural members, they are well-known notables and dignitaries of the city, and the elected members are elected, and their number is from (6-12) members. And according to the proportion of the population and for a period of four years, as half of the members are replaced every two years, and the elected member was required to pay the tax, which is an annual tax of (100) piasters, provided that he is not more than thirty years old, and is not linked to a temporary service. Or permanently with foreign consuls, or works in the army or police force or as a governor in the city, and is not convicted of a criminal case, and that he is a property owner and a subject of the Ottoman Empire and speaks the Turkish language⁽¹²⁾.

And often the choice of the head of the council was by the district administrator, usually from among the city's notables, and he received his salary from the municipality's revenues according to the municipal administration system in the public Wilayat issued in 1871, the president and members of the municipal council do not receive any salary. As for the municipal law issued in 1877, the president was allocated a monthly salary for carrying out his duties, while a member of the Municipal Council did not receive a salary and his membership is considered an honorary one⁽¹³⁾.

As for the conditions of the voter, they are to be one who pays an annual tax of (50) piasters, and that he is not less than twenty-five years of age, of Ottoman affiliation, and that he is not convicted of any felony or misdemeanor⁽¹⁴⁾. As for the method of electing the members of the Municipal Council, it is done through an election committee composed of the Qa'im Maqam, the Sharia ruler, two elected members of the Judicial Administration Council and the spiritual heads of the non-Muslim sects in the city.(Bureldea) to the winners' members a notification of their appointment⁽¹⁵⁾, and elections are held every two years between December and February to change half of the members and replace them with new ones⁽¹⁶⁾. It is noted on this method of election that it was not an expression of the general

⁽¹¹⁾ BOA, A.} DVN.MKL,Nr. 17/15/2, Tarih:27 Ramazan 1294(4 October 1877).

⁽¹²⁾ Yassin Shihab Shukri, Wilayat of Baghdad 1872-1909. A study of its administrative and economic conditions, unpublished MA thesis, College of Arts, University of Mosul, 1994, P. 79; Zawraa Newspaper, Issue (791), 9 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1295 AH.

⁽¹³⁾ Al-Dustour , vol. 1, P. 417.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Yassin Shihab Shukri, previous source, P. 79.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Al-Dustour, vol. 2, PP. 415-416.

⁽¹⁶⁾ Muhammad Kurd Ali, the previous source, Part 5, PP. 132-133.

opinions of the people of Nassiriyah, and did not result in them electing their representatives to participate in the management of their affairs.

The administrative body that works in the council consists of the assistant mayor who acts on his behalf during his absence, and the treasurer is responsible for preserving the municipality's revenues and submitting his monthly summary to the mayor of its revenues and expenses. Clerical matters in the municipality and keeping records and papers related to them⁽¹⁷⁾.

As for the municipal council employees, they are appointed by the state, and they are the treasurer and the clerk, and if the member is absent from the municipal council sessions for more than three days without a legitimate excuse, he is exempted from his position, and the council held a meeting every two weeks⁽¹⁸⁾.

The mayor has several responsibilities, the most important of which are⁽¹⁹⁾:

- 1- Presiding over the council's sessions that are held once every two weeks.
- 2-Appointing the employees and municipal observers (Jawawish) ⁽²⁰⁾ in their positions after obtaining the approval of the council.
- 3- Preparing the annual budget and presenting it to the Board.
- 4 - Implementation of all decisions of the Municipal Council.
- 5- Issuing statements and announcements related to the municipality.
- 6- Obtaining the approval of the Board of Directors for the decisions of the Municipal Council, which depend on the aforementioned ratification.
- 7- Submitting a monthly and annual summary of the revenues and expenditures to the Council and then publishing it in the official state newspaper⁽²¹⁾.

After the construction of the city of Nassiriyah and the success of Medhat Pasha's idea of introducing the landmarks of civilization to Iraq, and turning some of the tribal sheikhs into employees, as he did with Sheikh Nasser al-Sa'adoun, who made him a ruler of the consensus and the establishment of a metropolis bearing his name known as (Nassiriyah), and after opening the streets in it and people went to settle. It coincided with the appearance of the first building, which is the Government House⁽²²⁾, which consisted of sections, and of these municipal sections, with one room, and that was in 1869⁽²³⁾.

The establishment of the Municipal Department in the city of Nassiriyah expresses the interest of the Wilayat of Baghdad in this metropolis with its great importance and benefits for the Ottoman government after the establishment of this city through the relative stability witnessed by the region after it was previously considered one of the unstable areas and of a rebellious character in

⁽¹⁷⁾ Al-Dustour, vol. 1, P. 419; Lewis ,Op.Cit.,PP. 392-393.

⁽¹⁸⁾ Zawraa newspaper, issue (792), 20 Thul-Qa'dah, 1295 AH .

⁽¹⁹⁾ The Iraqi Government, Ministry of the Interior, a collection of laws, including the laws of the municipality of Al-Aylat, Baghdad, 1925, P. 10.

⁽²⁰⁾ Al-Jawawish : They are municipal employees whose task is to monitor the implementation of laws and regulations, in addition to other tasks such as monitoring prices and other matters assigned to them by the mayor. For more details, see: Rajab Barakat, Basra Municipality, 1869-1981, Beirut, 2013, P. 46.

⁽²¹⁾ The Iraqi government, the Ministry of Interior, a collection of laws, including the laws of the municipalities of the provinces, P. 10.

⁽²²⁾ Jawad al-Zahir, Iraq's modern political history since the establishment of the Iraqi state in 1921 and its historical roots, 2nd Edition, Part 1, Beirut, 2011, P. 80.

⁽²³⁾ A personal interview with Mr. Muhammad Ali Jabbar Aleikh in his house located in the city of Nassiriyah on November 13, 2021.

the face of the authority causing it Suffering, as well as financial returns after it extended its sway over tax collection⁽²⁴⁾, and the first municipal council was formed in Nassiriyah in 1875⁽²⁵⁾.

The Ottoman Municipalities Law stipulated that the mayor and members of the Municipal Council stay for four years, but the members of the Nassiriyah municipality continued their work for a longer period than the specified legal period, which was more than four years, as they continued their work until 1882 and this indicates their good work, as well as their The council's lack of a doctor and an engineer⁽²⁶⁾.

The Municipal Council of Nassiriyah continued in its first session to work until 1882, and then additions were made to the members of the Municipal Council by the Administrative Council of Nassiriyah city, which resulted in the selection of (Haj Ghaz'al Agha) and he was one of the city's notables who was known for his glorious past and his dedicated services to the people of his city, and the work did not continue The council mentioned for a long time, after one year there was a change and a new council was chosen in its place⁽²⁷⁾.

They continued to work for five years; this indicates the authority's satisfaction with their work. The State Council was very interested in the municipality of Nassiriyah . On the twenty-fifth of May 1303 Romi corresponding to June 7, 1887 AD, it sent a letter to the Finance Supervisor informing it of the transfer of securities to be deposited in the state treasury, indicating that the source of these funds of the imports of the municipality of Nassiriyah , this matter prompted the State Council to reflect on the changes that occurred in the imports of the municipality of Nassiriyah , and gave focus by the great leadership in its municipality⁽²⁸⁾.

After six years of strenuous efforts and work, new members were chosen, and in 1888, a successor to the previous council⁽²⁹⁾. During this stage, a law related to municipal affairs was issued in 1889, explaining the opening of the administrative divisions that make up the municipal departments, and these divisions are: engineering, municipal medicine, accounting, inspection, and editing, and each of these divisions has a special administrative cadre, and its own duties⁽³⁰⁾. The work of the above council continued until 1891, and then a new council was elected this year and included in its administrative structure new elite of eminent personalities in the city⁽³¹⁾.

The role of the members of the Nassiriyah municipal council was not limited to service matters only, but rather they had a role in the political issues that pertain

⁽²⁴⁾ Muslim Awad Muhalhal al-Khazali, the city of Nassiriyah since 1869-1921, a historical study, an unpublished doctoral thesis, College of Arts, Dhi Qar University, 2018, P. 78.

⁽²⁵⁾ Baghdad Wilayati Salnamah Ci, Istanbul, 1300 AH, P. 122.

⁽²⁶⁾ BOA,ŞD, Nr. 316/21/1, Tarih:14 Ramazan 1304 (5 June 1887).

⁽²⁷⁾ Abdul Halim Ahmed Al-Hussaini, Nassiriyah , History and Men, Volume 1, Baghdad, 2013, P. 130.

⁽²⁸⁾ BOA,ŞD, Nr. 316/21/1, Tarih:14 Ramazan 1304 (5 June 1887).

⁽²⁹⁾ Basra Wilayat Salnamah Ci, Istanbul, batch (2), 1309 AH, P. 340.

⁽³⁰⁾ Ahmed Ali Al-Sufi, History of the City of Mosul Municipality, Mosul, 1970, PP. 24-25.

⁽³¹⁾ Basra Wilayat Salnamah Ci, batch (2), Istanbul, 1309 AH, P. 180.

to the city. This was done through a request from the Great Leader to appoint a governor, dismiss him or keep him, and this is what happened when a report was sent to the Grand Vizier by the mayor, Abd al-Razzaq Effendi and members of the municipality on October 8, 1892, asking for the governor (Yahya Nuzhat) to remain in charge of the Liwa Al-Muntafiq⁽³²⁾.

The Municipal Council in Nassiriyah did not continue its work because of its interference in the basic issues related to the central administration of the state, and on this basis it was changed by the central authority, and by non-members while retaining the head of the council, Abdul Razzaq Effendi in 1893⁽³³⁾.

A year after the formation of the fifth municipal council in Nassiriyah, it was replaced by another council, and the work of the mentioned council did not last more than a year, so it was changed in 1895⁽³⁴⁾.

The Municipal Administration Law of 1877 set the term of the Municipal Council at four years, but what happened in the municipality of Nassiriyah is outside the law's controls. Five years and some one-year⁽³⁵⁾.

The Ottoman documents indicated regarding the administrative developments that the Nassiriyah municipality witnessed during this historical stage that elections were held for the Nassiriyah Municipal Council in 1897 and an accountant job was created in it⁽³⁶⁾.

It seems that the Ottoman state took care of municipal affairs in the last decade of the nineteenth century, and this is evident through the expansion of the municipality of Nassiriyah when a number of employees were added to increase the number of members of the municipal council, as well as the job of the accountant.

The issue of the municipality of Nassiriyah was not marginal during the Ottoman era, but was of great importance to the state, and all its details were surrounded by the care of the authority, and among these issues was the dismissal of the municipal accountant (Faiq Effendi). Faik Effendi, the accountant of the municipality of Nassiriyah, was dismissed, and Muhib Bey, the accountant of the Istanbul municipality, was appointed in the sixth district in his place. After the issuance of the Sunni will from Sultan Abdul Hamid II, and the order was implemented quickly due to the importance of this sensitive department in the financial returns of the state⁽³⁷⁾.

But the substitute accountant was not at the reliable level. After a short period of time, news came from the municipality of Nassiriyah to the clerk of the royal secret informing him of the escape of the municipal accountant (Mohib Bey) to Europe, and in light of this, the clerk of the royal secret sent a private message to

⁽³²⁾ BOA, HR.TO, Nr.398/32/2/2, Tarih: 25 September 1308 R (8 October 1892).

⁽³³⁾ Basra Wilayat Salnameh Ci, batch (3), Istanbul, 1311 AH, PP. 159-169.

⁽³⁴⁾ Muslim Awad Muhalhal, the city of Nassiriyah from 1869-1921, PP. 253-254.

⁽³⁵⁾ BOA, A.} DVN.MKL, Nr. 17/15/2-3, Tarih:27 Ramazan 1294(4 October 1877).

⁽³⁶⁾ Basra Wilayat Salnameh Ci, first batch, Istanbul, 1314 AH, P. 128;

BOA, Y.PRK.BŞK, Nr.52/94/2/1, Tarih:4 Muharrem 1315 (24 May 1313R) (5 June 1897).

⁽³⁷⁾ BOA, Y.PRK.BŞK, Nr.52/94/2/1, Tarih:13 Muharrem 1315(2 June 1313R) (14 June 1897).

the Sultan informing him of his escape. The accountant of the municipality of Nassiriyah went to Europe on June 5, 1897, and explained that a new Sunni will must be issued to appoint an appropriate alternative, who fled to Europe, informed them that a replacement for him would be appointed within a day or two by virtue of a royal order to that effect⁽³⁸⁾. This indicates that the appointment of any employee in the municipality of Nassiriyah was by the central authority in Istanbul and with the will of the Sunnis.

In 1898 he replaced the administrative hierarchy of the Municipal Council in Nassiriyah⁽³⁹⁾, and the council lasted from 1898 to 1901, after which elections were held that resulted in the formation of a new council⁽⁴⁰⁾. An important change occurred in the administrative structure of the municipal council in 1902, if the post of doctor was created⁽⁴¹⁾, as health matters were affiliated with the municipality according to the Ottoman system⁽⁴²⁾.

The work of the Municipal Council continued to carry out the functions entrusted to it until 1907, after which changes were made at the top of the administrative hierarchy, so he changed the head of the council (Ibrahim Effendi) and replaced him (Abdullah Agha), who continued his work until 1915, and the Grand Vizier thanked him for the efforts he made. By increasing the imports of the municipality of Nassiriyah during the period of his stay in office, which prompted the administrative authorities in the state of Basra to make Nassiriyah the center of the Liwa Al-Muntafiq, which is administratively affiliated to the state of Basra during that historical stage, as these authorities demanded the higher authorities in Istanbul through the (Ministry of Interior). The Ministry of the Interior raised the rank of the mayor of Nassiriyah (Abdullah Agha) to the third degree. Promoted to the third rank. The Grand Vizier's approval for his promotion was issued on Rabi' al-Awwal 29, 1325 AH, corresponding to May 12, 1907 AD⁽⁴³⁾.

It seems that most of the mayors of Nassiriyah and the members of the municipal council are from wealthy and influential families, even from feudal families.

Among the matters related to the administrative work of the municipality is its supervision of the work of the mayors⁽⁴⁴⁾; Because of their role in arranging the affairs of the town, as they entrusted their work with many tasks, including reporting the laws received from the Mutasarrifiyah, collecting government funds from the residents of the locality, distributing summons tickets sent by the government to people, as well as reporting births, deaths, and felonies⁽⁴⁵⁾.

The mukhtars were elected on the basis of controls, including that they should be from the city's supervising and rich people. The term of membership in the

⁽³⁸⁾ BOA, BEO,962/72129/1, Tarih: 25 May 1313R (6 June 1897).

⁽³⁹⁾ Basra Wilayat Salnameh Ci, batch (4), Istanbul, 1318 AH, P. 262.

⁽⁴⁰⁾ Muslim Awad Muhallal, the city of Nassiriyah from 1869-1921, P. 256.

⁽⁴¹⁾ The Municipalities Law stipulated in Chapter Two, Paragraph Five of it, that a doctor in the municipality should be appointed as a Shura member of the Municipal Council. For more details See: BOA, A.} DVN.MKL, Nr. 17/15/3, Tarih:27 Ramazan 1294(4 October 1877).

⁽⁴²⁾ Basra Wilayat Salnameh Ci, batch (5), Istanbul, 1320 AH, P. 214.

⁽⁴³⁾ BOA, DH.MKT, Nr. 1166/3/1, Tarih: 29 Rebülevvel 1325(29 April 1323R) (12 May 1907).

⁽⁴⁴⁾ Al-Mukhtar: a word of Arabic origin and it means to become by choice in every locality, city or village. His job is to look into its affairs and needs. The word Mukhtar is attributed to him. The word "Mukhtar" is combined in Persian, "Mukhtar". For more details, see: Ali Nazima and Rashad Beklouk, Mukamel Osmanli Laghti, Istanbul, 1319 AH, P. 717.

⁽⁴⁵⁾ Abdul Aziz Suleiman Nawar, The History of Modern Iraq from the End of the Reign of Daoud Pasha to the End of the Reign of Medhat Pasha, 3rd Edition, Baghdad, 2013, PP. 263-264.

optional council was one year, and they could be elected for life. Hussain bin Saeed Al-Haran was the mayor of the locality of the Great Mosque, and Sayyid Zaidan was the mukhtar of the locality of Al-Saray, and Sayed Shehab on the locality of Al-Suwaij. And Abd al-Hussein Mullah Imran for the district of Al-Seef, and Jalil Abbas Al-Khanfar in the district of Al-Sharqiya, and Hamid Khaled Al-Sabi'i for the district of the Sabeans ⁽⁴⁶⁾.

It seems that through this, the policy that the Ottomans followed in the Al-Muntafiq area, especially since the issuance of the Sharif Kulkhaneh line in 1839, through the Sharif Humayun line in 1856, and the accession of Sultan Abdul Hamid II to the Ottoman throne in 1876, we note the fluctuation in the direction of the reform policy between centralization and decentralization, and the rule has proceeded Al-Humaidi adopted the authoritarian approach, and even the Federalists who came after him were no exception. On this basis, the municipal councils were not given enough opportunity to train the residents, including the people of Nassiriyah, to exercise their real and effective role in managing these municipal councils effectively, in addition to the clash of feudal trends within those councils, which was an obstacle to the advancement of the political, economic and social level of the people Nassiriyah.

Third: Tasks of the Municipal Council in Nassiriyah 1869-1915:

1- Engineering tasks

The Engineering Division of the Municipality of Nassiriyah was established on Rabi' al-Akhir 28, 1309 AH, corresponding to November 1, 1891 AD, through the appointment of an engineer, the task of this division is to construct buildings, expand and organize roads, level slabs, construct and reconstruct water and sewage channels ⁽⁴⁷⁾. In which it was stated, every qasaba or city should have its own map designed by the municipality engineer who is knowledgeable and knowledgeable in this work." For the purpose of inspecting the properties and orchards in the state center and its annexes, and making, the necessary checks by the municipality engineer, and if there is a shortage of cadres, additional engineers must be appointed. The municipality to be appointed for organizing maps and land drafts, as some places need maps and surveys ⁽⁴⁸⁾.

On this basis, the Finance Ministry's approval was issued to appoint an engineer in the municipality of Nassiriyah in order to perform engineering tasks, in relation to surveying the princess lands and others, and to develop designs and maps for the city of Nassiriyah, provided that his financial dues are paid from the municipal revenues in its treasury, or from the other half of the municipal revenues that It is taken from it and sent to Istanbul, as the Ottoman Empire used to take half of the municipality's revenues and send it to the Finance Department ⁽⁴⁹⁾.

One of the tasks of the Engineering Division was the supervision of all the buildings that are established in the city and the removal of ramshackle from

⁽⁴⁶⁾ From the archive of Dr. Wamid Sarhan Dhiab saved in his full library in Baghdad.

⁽⁴⁷⁾ Zawraa newspaper, issue (791), 9 Thul Qi'dah 1295 AH.

⁽⁴⁸⁾ BOA, DH.MKT, Nr.1896/18/1, Tarih: 28 Rebûlâhir 1309(19 November 1307R)(1 December 1891).

⁽⁴⁹⁾ BOA, DH.MKT, Nr. 2009/064/1, Tarih: 20 Receb 1310 (23 August 1308R) (11 October 1892).

them, whether they were governmental or private ⁽⁵⁰⁾. The registration of all immovable property with an indication of their value, revenues, names of their owners, and drawing up of engineering drawings ⁽⁵¹⁾, the wilayat Municipal Law gave the municipality the right to file lawsuits in order to preserve the interest of the municipality and to monitor inns, cafes and all places where people gather⁽⁵²⁾.

2- Supervising the markets and following up on prices and transportation charges:

One of the duties entrusted to the municipality of Nassiriyah was to supervise the markets and follow up the progress of their work. At the beginning of its work, the municipality of Nassiriyah included the city's qasbah, and it was entrusted with many works that were later transferred to government institutions, such as setting prices on foodstuffs. It was offered in the markets, as it contained (400) shops and (6) markets and price follow-ups ⁽⁵³⁾, especially after the (Zawraa) newspaper issued the government decision to determine the prices of consumer goods⁽⁵⁴⁾.

The municipality's work was not limited to following up on prices, but one of its tasks was to prevent the monopoly of goods ⁽⁵⁵⁾, and in order to follow up on these tasks, this matter was entrusted to employees working in the municipality department known as (Al-Jawawish) ⁽⁵⁶⁾, as well as determining the tariffs for vehicle and transport wages within the municipality's borders and inspection Horses and godmothers to ensure their safety⁽⁵⁷⁾. It was also a part of the municipality's work to follow up on public cafes in order to preserve public taste, as one of its duties was to inform cafe owners not to place seats for customers and cafe-goers on public roads, and they must be entered inside the cafe, in order to preserve the privacy of men and women who pass between these seats, which harm them⁽⁵⁸⁾.

3- The tasks of cleaning and maintenance of roads:

In addition to the tasks entrusted to the municipality, its duties included cleaning, maintaining roads, and treating the situation caused by rain in the winter season by covering the roads with gravel, stones, asphalt and tar⁽⁵⁹⁾. It also took care of improving the view of Nassiriyah city through continuous cleaning services on all sides, including monitoring of inns, bathrooms and cafes⁽⁶⁰⁾.

4- Political missions:

⁽⁵⁰⁾ Abdul Aziz Suleiman Nawar, the previous source, P. 364.

⁽⁵¹⁾ Abd al-Azim Abbas Nassar, Municipalities of Iraq in the Ottoman Era, 1534-1918, a historical and documentary study, Qom, 1427 AH, PP. 148-149.

⁽⁵²⁾ Article (3), Chapter One, the State Municipal Law; Zawraa newspaper, issue (791), 9 Thul-Qi'dah 1295 AH.

⁽⁵³⁾ Basra Wilayat Salnameh Ci, 1308 AH, batch (1), PP. 109-110.

⁽⁵⁴⁾ Zawraa newspaper, issue (245), 3 Rabi' Al-Awwal, 1289 AH.

⁽⁵⁵⁾ Abdel Azim Abbas Nassar, the previous source, PP. 148-149.

⁽⁵⁶⁾ Rajab Barakat , the previous source , P. 46 .

⁽⁵⁷⁾ Abdel Azim Abbas Nassar, the previous source, P. 149.

⁽⁵⁸⁾ Zawra newspaper, issue (275), 20 Jumada al-Akhra, 1289 AH.

⁽⁵⁹⁾ Zawraa newspaper, issue (11), 16 Jumada al-Awwal 1286 AH.

⁽⁶⁰⁾ Abdel Azim Abbas Nassar, the previous source, P. 149.

According to the Municipalities Law issued in 1877⁽⁶¹⁾ entrusted the task of supervising the elections of the Council of Representatives⁽⁶²⁾. To the municipality through the candidates submitting papers for their candidacy to it, so it sorts them and chooses the fittest among them. Often the candidates for the Council of Representatives in Nassiriyah were members and mayors of the municipality. After the results of the sorting were announced, the mayor sent a telegram informing who the winner was. In 1908, the mayor sent Al-Nassiriyah informs the Sublime Porte of the victory of (Khadher Bey), the candidate of the Liwa Al-Muntafiq in the Council of Envoys⁽⁶³⁾.

Here, it is necessary to point out that the person who attains the position of mayor is not an easy matter. The one who takes it enables him to reach important positions in the state. Among these evidences, Badi' Nuri, the mayor of Al-Fateh municipality in Istanbul, assumed the position of administrator of the Liwa Al-Muntafiq on March 15, 1913 instead of Wasfi Effendi ⁽⁶⁴⁾. And this task was not only one of the municipality's political duties only, but it also had a role in dealing with questionable matters in the election results. After the objection of Mr. (Ibrahim Effendi), who was the mayor of the municipality, to the election result, he submitted a complaint to the Interior Ministry through the Basra Wilayat, which was The Liwa Al-Muntafiq is affiliated to it, requesting that a commission be sent to inspect and review the election results after his loss⁽⁶⁵⁾ and the victory of M'arouf al-Rasafi⁽⁶⁶⁾, so the Interior Ministry sent a letter to the Mutasarrifiyah and the Nassiriyah municipality to know the general situation and look into the issue of the elections⁽⁶⁷⁾, and after conducting an investigation and verifying the election results I considered Ibrahim Effendi's complaint and declared Al-Rusafi's victory⁽⁶⁸⁾.

5- Educational and health tasks:

Despite the efforts made by the Ottoman Empire to reform the educational reality through the laws it issued in this field, religious education represented by the khateeb and missionary schools remained the norm, and with the advent of Midhat Pasha, who was considered the first Ottoman governor, he put many reforms into effect, including Education, so during his reign the Al-Rashdiya School was established, and after its expansion in the Iraqi Wilayat , three schools were opened in the Liwa Al-Muntafiq , two of which were in the city of Nassiriyah⁽⁶⁹⁾ , which included one teacher and the municipality paid his

⁽⁶¹⁾ BOA, A.} DVN.MKL, Nr. 17/15/3, Tarih: 27 Ramazan 1294(4 October 1877).

⁽⁶²⁾ The Council of Envoys: It is the Ottoman parliament or parliament, founded by Sultan Abdul Hamid II. General elections were held in the Ottoman history and resulted in the representation of Muslims with 71 seats, Christians with 44 seats and 4 seats for Jews, and its first meeting was on Rabi' al-Awwal 4, 1294 AH corresponding to March 19, 1877 AD. For more details, see: Ismat Abdel Qader, The Role of Arab Representatives in the Ottoman Council of Representatives 1908-1914, Beirut, 2006, PP. 112-25.

⁽⁶³⁾ BOA, DH.MUİ, Nr. 46/1/35/1, Tarih: 6 December 1325R (19 December 1908).

⁽⁶⁴⁾ BOA, İ.DH, Nr. 1498/36/1-2, Tarih: 5 Rebi'ülâhîr 1331 (March 15, 1913).

⁽⁶⁵⁾ BOA, DH.KMS, Nr. 23/45/2-3, Tarih: 22 Receb 1332 (15 June 1914).

⁽⁶⁶⁾ An Iraqi poet called al-Rusafi, in relation to the city of al-Rusafa in Baghdad, and he hated talking about his parents and lineage. For more details, see: Badawi Ahmed Tabana, Marouf Al-Rasafi A literary study of the poet of Iraq and his political and social environment, Cairo, 1947.

⁽⁶⁷⁾ BOA, DH. KMS, Nr. 23/45/6, Tarih: 20 May 1330 R (2 June 1914).

⁽⁶⁸⁾ BOA, DH. KMS, Nr. 23/45/13, Tarih: 24 May 1330 R (6 June 1914).

⁽⁶⁹⁾ Luma Abdel- Aziz Mustafa Abdel Karim, the previous source, PP. 62-66.

salary⁽⁷⁰⁾, as it had a role in supervising education in the city, and it was one of the Its tasks are to fill the financial deficit that hinders the progress of education in the city, after addressing the Department of Education in the Liwa Al-Muntafiq of the municipality of Nassiriyah in order to appoint a teacher, due to its inability to provide financial allocations for him⁽⁷¹⁾, and accordingly the municipality decided Nassiriyah dealt with the matter by providing it in front of a mosque to carry out this task, and allocated him a monthly salary of (200) piasters⁽⁷²⁾.

The Municipal Council is also in charge of monitoring the general health situation, supervising health centers, preventing the sale of meat from sick or weak animals, the obligation to cover meat in butcher shops, monitoring leather shops, dyestuffs and other shops with unpleasant odors, and the obligation to take preventive measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and epidemics within the kasbah. And the surrounding villages, and when the cholera epidemic spread in the city of Nassiriyah in 1893, the municipal council, represented by its president, Abdul Razzaq Effendi, was forced to inform the higher government authorities of this deadly epidemic, and the mayor worked to seek the assistance of experts in this field in order to control this epidemic⁽⁷³⁾.

6- Other tasks:

Among the other tasks of the municipality is conducting the population census and registering the births and deaths of the population, as well as improving the city's landscape, supervising the examination of the regular and unusual budget, and determining the method of disbursing the amounts specified in the budget, and its powers are to discuss the appointment and dismissal of employees within the approved budget limits⁽⁷⁴⁾.

Overseeing the municipality's finances was one of the most important tasks of the municipal council by submitting monthly schedules to be approved by the governor, and annual schedules to the Interior Ministry. As well as supervising the means of transportation and all the public projects, you need. Appointing night guards to guard the city and protecting government institutions, including the municipality building, and working to put out fires that might break out in the town. It was also another task assigned to the Municipal Council, which is to maintain the cleanliness of the town and to take care of public health and hospitals. The municipal council held its meetings twice a week, and required the attendance of more than half of its members, and usually the meeting was held under the chairmanship of the mayor or his assistant in the absence of the first, and if both were absent, the presidency would be for the oldest member, and the council could not hold discussions on a specific topic unless he attended The session is two-thirds of the members of the council, and decisions are taken in the council by the majority of votes, and when the votes are equal, the majority is

⁽⁷⁰⁾ BOA, HR.MR, Nr./336/47/1, Tarih: 1312 R (1894).

⁽⁷¹⁾ BOA, MF.MKT, Nr. 236/47/1, Tarih: 25 Zilkade 1311(18 May 1310R)(29 May 1894).

⁽⁷²⁾ BOA, MF.MKT,Nr. 236/47/1 ,Tarih :17 Safer 1312(6 August 1310R)(19 August 1894).

⁽⁷³⁾ BOA , HR. MR, Nr.17/15/1, Tarih: 1311 H(1309 R) ;

Wamid Sarhan Diab, Waves of epidemics, drought and natural disasters in Iraq during the Ottoman era 1830-1917, Ankara, 2017, P. 130.

⁽⁷⁴⁾ Abdel Azim Abbas Nassar, the previous source, P. 149.

in the area where the opinion of the mayor is, and the affairs of the municipality department were managed by a number of employees, including the treasurer, the municipality engineer, an inspector, a human doctor and another veterinarian⁽⁷⁵⁾.

Fourth: The Finance of Nassiriyah Municipality:

1- The imports of the municipality of Nassiriyah:

After the advent of Midhat Pasha as governor of Iraq, one of his most important works was the application of the Tapu system, and thus he introduced the land registration system in Al-Muntafiq during the reign of Nasser Pasha Al-Sadoun, the first administrator of Al-Mu'arif in 1869. Instead of the proverb in an auction that no one competed with them, and thus their tribes became tenants of their lands, and this step is considered the first seed of the land problem in Al-Muntafiq⁽⁷⁶⁾, and the purpose of that was to strengthen the sway of Al-Sa'adoun, as well as to facilitate the process of collecting taxes, which constituted an important resource from the imports of the municipality of Nassiriyah. The most prominent of them are the taxes imposed by Midhat Pasha, which amount to hundreds of piastres. The central government has also allocated other types of taxes to the municipality, which include ordinary and extraordinary taxes, which are imposed and collected according to a Sunni will⁽⁷⁷⁾, and one of the usual taxes is the stamp tax⁽⁷⁸⁾, in addition to the costs that come with it. What is sold from the excess lands after repairing the roads and lanes leading to them, and reorganizing them, as well as the honor fee that is taken from the persons who benefit from this reform, and they had the right to impose financial fines on violators of the law⁽⁷⁹⁾.

It also took construction fees that were imposed on new facilities and slaughter fees, and they ranged in the beginning of the twentieth century between (45) to (25) piasters for each head of animals and according to the size of the animal, and the fees taken on bridge-crossers, in addition to the fees (Al-Aghbani) which is taken on hair strands that are woven and become cloth, and its amount was at the beginning of the twentieth century (8%), and from other fees what is known as (Spanish). 0.25 to (0.5) Majidi (one Majidi is equivalent to (20) piasters) to be taken annually from each merchant⁽⁸⁰⁾, in addition to collecting the floor wages for the brick cores at an amount of (12,000) piasters annually, and the allowance of shops belonging to the municipality (512). An annual piaster, from the municipal market (9600) piaster annually, violations fees amounts (300) piasters annually, and miscellaneous amounts from the buildings owned by an amount of (260) piasters annually, warehouse imports (500) piasters, and these fees are (3500) piasters and fees⁽⁸¹⁾. They are considered as amounts collected from fines imposed on waste within Municipal scope.

⁽⁷⁵⁾ Al-Dustour, vol. 1, P. 420.

⁽⁷⁶⁾ Shaima Taleb Abdullah al-Maksusi, al-Muntafiq, a historical and political study 1921-1939, an unpublished master's thesis, College of Education, Al-Mustansiriya University, 1998, P. 5.

⁽⁷⁷⁾ Abdel Azim Abbas Nassar, the previous source, P. 163.

⁽⁷⁸⁾ Al-Tamgha: It is one of the old taxes that have been known in Iraq since the time of the Ilkhanate state and before, and it is the tax imposed on goods sold in the markets. For more details, see: Khalil Ali Murad, Iraq in the second Ottoman era, a study in the Ottoman administration and economic life (1638-1759), Beirut, 2018, P. 295.

⁽⁷⁹⁾ BOA, A.} DVN.MKL, Nr. 17/15/3, Tarih: 27 Ramazan 1294 (4 October 1877).

⁽⁸⁰⁾ Jamil Musa Al-Najjar, the previous source, PP. 244-245.

⁽⁸¹⁾ BOA, DH.TMIK.S, Nr. 48/34/1, Tarih: 27 Cemaziyelevvel 1321 (20 August 1903).

Other taxes were also imposed on all cotton and woolen goods that were manufactured or embroidered locally, as well as copper utensils and golden cotton goods sold in the markets, construction fees and animal selling fees⁽⁸²⁾, and also the money taken from the beneficiaries of municipal regulations had a clear impact on increasing revenues. The municipality of Nassiriyah, in addition to the subsidies and gifts, the municipal council used to organize a budget book every month and submit it to the district's board of directors, after which it is submitted to the state board of directors for approval. The table with another table that includes a statement of the expected imports and expenditures for the coming year to the Interior Ministry⁽⁸³⁾.

2- Nassiriyah municipality expenses:

The exchange doors for the municipality included many aspects, including what was spent on roads, crossings, and new constructions of the city, as well as administrative expenses such as salaries for employees and prices for fuel⁽⁸⁴⁾, stationery and furniture, as well as securing the salary of the municipal doctor, the subsidies it grants to orphans and the needy, and its unregulated expenses. On feasts, religious occasions and state occasions such as the anniversary of the Sultan's birth and his seat on the throne, and ensuring that they are equipped, shrouded and buried for those who do not have family, and emergency expenses such as staving off the danger of floods ⁽⁸⁵⁾ , in addition to its contribution to construction expenses by a decision of the Liwa Council⁽⁸⁶⁾, and from the drainage gates of the municipality of Nassiriyah. He bears the task of preparing for the elections of the council of envoys, as the mayor is considered the head of the inspection body and the members of the municipal council are members of that body, in addition to the members of the district's board of directors , the expenses of the officials who are assigned to the villages and the rest of the districts for the purpose of promoting the elections, their expenses are from the municipality's financial fund⁽⁸⁷⁾.

The municipality of Nassiriyah also allocated a monthly salary of (200) piasters for the teacher whose salary the Department of Education in the city is unable to pay, and the salaries of its employees were paid, so it gave the salary of the mayor an amount of (4800) piasters, and the salary of the assistant mayor of (840) piasters, the clerk of the municipality and the treasurer (300) piasters, and the municipal doctor (2400) piasters, in addition to the salaries of market users (8649) piasters, and the salary of Rawzakhon (360) piasters, and the salary of sweepers and scavengers (3000) piasters, and lighting fixtures in the markets (2400) piasters. These amounts are mentioned. It is the amount of each employee's salary for a full year⁽⁸⁸⁾.

⁽⁸²⁾ Jamil Musa Al-Najjar, the previous source, PP. 244-245.

⁽⁸³⁾ Al-Dustour, vol. 1, P. 421.

⁽⁸⁴⁾ Abdul Aziz Suleiman Nawar , the previous source , P. 365 .

⁽⁸⁵⁾ Abdel Azim Abbas Nassar, the previous source, P. 172.

⁽⁸⁶⁾ Hussain Al-Rahhal and Abdul Majeed Kamouna, previous source, P. 259 .

⁽⁸⁷⁾ BOA, MF.MKT, Nr. 236/47/2, Tarih: 25 Zilkade 1311(18 May 1310R)(29 May 1894).

⁽⁸⁸⁾ BOA, DH.TMIK.S, Nr. 48/34/1, Tarih: 27 Cemaziyelevvel 1321 (20 August 1903).

3- Nassiriyah municipality budget:

The municipal budget is organized according to scheduling the revenues and expenditures realized in that year and expected for the next year, and the municipal council edits it and is organized by it, as the State Shura Council set out on Dhu al-Qa'dah 13, 1298 AH corresponding to October 6, 1881 AD a decision regarding how to audit the accounts belonging to the municipalities by the Court of Accounts ⁽⁸⁹⁾. After the establishment of the municipality of Nassiriyah and the development of its work after several years, the state allocated a budget for it in 1875, so a letter was transferred from the State Shura Council, which on its part sent inspectors to the municipality of Nassiriyah. After completing the inspection and audit committee, the committee sent an official answer to the Ministry of the Interior with a letter on Ramadan 9, 1303 AH corresponding to June 10, 1886 and with the signature of the head of finance (Zuhdi Pasha), that the paragraph of the annual budget of Nassiriyah municipality is (44,300) piasters, which is the total amount allocated to it, and that the amount reaching it until that moment is (12,300) piasters to pay the salaries of workers in the municipality, and accordingly The transaction of the completion of the amount in the financial glasses and that the remaining amounts will arrive successively⁽⁹⁰⁾.

It seems that the state's failure towards the municipality of Nassiriyah has its repercussions on the performance of its work and its failure to complete service projects in the city and caused it to be embarrassed to undertake construction projects, in addition to the fees and taxes that the municipality collects that it sends to Istanbul, and from the above it can be said that the municipal budget was suffering from a lack of funds In many cases, the state does not send them.

There have been developments in the budget of the municipality of Nassiriyah. In 1903, it included expenditures from salaries and subsidies to the poor, and shrouding the dead and burying them. Among the things that the municipality undertook to spend on religious feasts and national occasions, such as the sitting of the Sultan and other belongings, was obligated by the District Council to pay a salary to the Mufti of Nassiriyah. In addition to the imports that she obtained from her property represented by markets, mills, and khans, as well as the cleanings that the Ottoman Municipalities Law authorized to levy on⁽⁹¹⁾.

When comparing the municipality's expenditures and its imports in 1903, we note that its imports have exceeded its expenditures by a small difference, which concludes that it was self-financing its financial affairs through the property and services it collected, and this indicates the accuracy in determining the imports and expenditures in order to achieve a profit for the municipality's income.

Conclusion and conclusions

Through the foregoing in our study on the history of the municipality of Nassiriyah , which shows us an important aspect of the service departments that

⁽⁸⁹⁾ Abdel Azim Abbas Nassar, the previous source, PP. 171 -177 .

⁽⁹⁰⁾ BOA,ŞD,Nr. 316/21/2, Tarih:9 Ramazan 1304(20 May 1303R)(1 June 1887).

⁽⁹¹⁾ BOA, DH.TMIK.S, Nr. 48/34/1, Tarih: 27 Cemaziyelevvel 1321 (20 August 1903).

had a direct relationship with the population, the study concluded a number of results that can be concluded in the following points:

1. It can be said that the city of Nassiriyah separated from some cities and the Sanjaks in forming a municipality department. This department was established in the same year in which this city maintained that in 1869, and the municipality was entrusted with wide tasks and functions through the health, educational and urban services it provided, which in turn took It is expanding gradually, in addition to its political tasks in supervising the elections of the (Council of Envoys), and not only that, but we found that membership in the Municipal Council qualifies its holder to high-level positions in the state, in addition to its nomination of those qualified for the elections.
2. Nasser Pasha al-Sa'adoun and Al-Muntafiq were not the only ones who bore the financial burden of building Nassiriyah, but the various people and clans of the area extending from Kut to the Hartha area in the Basra district participated with them, except for the al-Chibayish area; This is due to the bad relationship between the Al-Sa'adoun family and Bani Asad.
3. After the issuance of the Ottoman Municipalities Law in 1877, it began to become clear to study the implications of this law on the service reality of the population through the construction and expansion of roads and the development of designs for the city, which made it one of the most beautiful and organized Iraqi cities in the Ottoman era.
4. By studying the Ottoman documents related to the municipality of Nassiriyah, it became clear to us that the health services were the responsibility of the municipality, as it provided the doctor and paid him a salary from its revenues for treating sick cases.

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