

MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
April 22, 2003
5:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor and Full Council

STAFF PRESENT: Dennis Mastic, Lucy Johnson, Tom Graff
Tom Dankest, Jon Aircushion, Pat McGarvey

ALSO PRESENT: Media, Austin Daily Herald and Austin Post Bulletin
reporters. Terry Plath. Tom Sherman.

Item 1. The Park Maintenance reported on two proposals received from Terry Plath and Dolan's Landscape and compared their costs for summer parks mowing against costs incurred by the city's seasonal maintenance program that mostly utilizes students employed during the summer months, plus equipment and overhead.

After discussion on the merits of each approach and related costs, a motion was made by Council Member Jorgenson, seconded by Council Member Nordin, to reject both proposals and leave the 2003 summer parks maintenance as is with the use of student seasonal employment plus two full-time personnel. 7-0.

Item 2. The City Administrator reported on the past and current situation the City of Austin is in concerning the recording of comp time by city exempt positions which is not in keeping with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Another issue is the terms and conditions the Employer should require for the use of recorded past comp hours. A proposed personnel policy was discussed. The A.A.O. union requested discussion on these matters. The Administrator reported that he had a phone visit with Cy Smythe on April 22 along with Jon Aircushion and suggests that the entire A.A.O. personnel plus Mr. Dankest and Mr. Hurm meet with Mr. Smythe and the City Attorney to review the legalities of these issues and try and reach a policy for future Council action that will bring this matter of comp time of exempt positions into compliance with FLSA.

No further action was taken by Council pending the outcome of the suggested meeting.

Item 5. The council reviewed the status of recodification of the city code and especially the chapters on liquor and tobacco. These two will be placed on the may 6th work session for review, and then a 30-day notice will be given on the tobacco ordinance leading to possible adoption of the recodified city code by June 16, not including the Charter changes which will require a quorum of the Charter Commission to present at a public hearing before the Commission can send their recommended action to the council at a later date on charter changes.

Item 3. Jon Erichson presented a report on the need to extend sanitary sewer to Bellman's south of the city limits on Hwy. 218. There are two options; one is for sewer only, and the other is for sewer, water, storm drainage, and asphalt roads in the addition, leading to annexation into Austin.

The Council indicated that either option was satisfactory to them.

Item 4. Jon Erichson gave a report and update on bids to be taken for phase I sanitary sewer up to the Cook farm. Bids will be opened on May 29, 2003. This project was bonded for in 2002 and the Building Fund will be used to retire the debt on these bonds each year.

Platting of the Cook Farm will go before the Planning Commission on May 13. A comprehensive plan with estimated costs will go before the council at the May 6th work session in order to determine the per-acre value of the lots.

The \$1M of phase II improvements will be designed and placed for bids to be opened in June 26, 2003.

Motion by Council Member Nordin, seconded by Council Member Chamberlain, to move ahead with design and taking of bids on phase II.

Item 6. The City Administrator presented a recommendation to grant \$225,000 from the Building Fund to the H.R.A. to be used to purchase the Sherman property on Block 15 west of the Courtyard Apartments, subject to a phase one environmental report being done, appraisal and relocation report of eligible costs with the payment by the City to the H.R.A. held until there is a certainty to an actual sale and closing by the seller and buyer. This may require an executed purchase agreement on the Use Block 19 property prior to the seller's willingness to sign a purchase agreement with the H.R.A. for the Block 15 property.

Council Member Goodnature read several reasons why he does not favor this purchase.

Motion by Council Member Koch, seconded by Council Member Nordin, to recommend at a regular council meeting that the City of Austin grant \$225,000 to the H.R.A. and make actual payment when there is a certain closing and after completion of a satisfactory phase one environmental report on this property.

Roll call: Ayes – Koch, Chamberlain, Jorgenson, and Nordin. Nays – Goodnature, Pacholl, and Christopherson.

The Mayor and Council discussed changing the start time of the bi-monthly work sessions. It was agreed to start the next work session on May 6th at 5:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned: 8:00 pm

Patrick McGarvey