



Austin City Council MINUTES

For Special Called Council Meeting - January 31, 1984
4:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, 307 West Second Street, Austin, Texas

City Council

Ron Mullen
Mayor

John Treviño, Jr.
Mayor Pro Tem

Council Members
Mark Rose
Roger Duncan
Sally Shipman
Mark E. Spaeth
Charles E. Urdy

Nicholas M. Meiszer
City Manager

Elden Aldridge
City Clerk

Memorandum To:

Mayor Mullen called to order the Special Called Meeting of the Council, noting the absence of Mayor Pro Tem Treviño and Councilmember Rose.

The Mayor stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review the annual reports of the various Boards and Commissions of the City and that Councilmembers would be asking questions of some of them.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In reply to an inquiry by the Mayor, it was stated that there are presently ten positions on the committee.

AUSTIN TOMORROW ON-GOING COMMITTEE

The Mayor recognized Bob Mather, Acting Chairperson of the Committee. Mr. Mather noted that one phase of their work was in sub-committee and would be coming before the Council soon. He said that the next phase for ATOC should be a rigorous accounting system.

Mayor Mullen said that the Council is considering other ways of long-range planning but before any decision is made they will have an additional discussion with ATOC.

AIRPORT ZONING BOARD

Councilmember Shipman said although the Board has sovereign powers, they never meet. She suggested that perhaps they could be involved with the Citizen's Airport Task Force, or if not, the Council should not appoint people to a board that doesn't meet.

Mayor Mullen replied that the State Statute requires that the Board be appointed and that it is best to appoint members, even though they never meet.

Mayor Mullen asked Lonnie Davis, Director of the Building Inspection Department, if he knows of any way the Board of Adjustment can save the City money. Mr. Davis replied that the Board is well aligned.

CONSUMER POSITIONS

Councilmember Duncan noted that certain Boards and Commissions, such as the Plumbing Board and the Building Standards Commission, have very specific slots for persons in a particular field of expertise. He suggested that consideration be given to creating some consumer positions on those boards and commissions which have only specific positions. He said that he would take a closer look to see if there is any real problem.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Mayor Mullen said that the Commission membership had been reduced to thirteen in order to have a more workable group.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Don Damron, Chairperson of the Community Development Commission, noted that the CDC exists because it is federally mandated, if the City of Austin wishes to receive CDC block grant funds.

ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION

Clarence Neibuhr, Chairperson of the Ethics Review Commission, stated that they are in need of an additional member.

Councilmember Duncan replied that the Council would prefer to wait until the matter concerning Mayor Mullen, which is presently under discussion by the commission, is resolved.

MOTION - CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

The Council, on Councilmember Shipman's motion and Mayor Mullen's second, voted to terminate the Charter Revision Commission on April 1, 1984. (Vote: 5-0; Mayor Pro Tem Trevino and Councilmember Rose absent)

SOLICITATION BOARD

Mayor Mullen questioned whether any good is coming out of the time spent working with the Solicitation Board.

Elden Aldridge, City Clerk, said that a large number of applications go before the board and that applicants are turned down on the advice of the legal department.

SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Councilmember Shipman said that she would like to see the committee more involved in the civic center discussions.

According to Leonard Ehrler, Director of PARD, the civic center is one of the goals in the Master Plan of the Committee.

Barbara Cilley, a member of the Committee, stated that the members are putting out a community catalogue of guidelines and projects and is considering whether or not to put the civic center in the catalogue as a permanent project. She said she personally has some misgivings about adopting a project that the Committee cannot see to completion.

Councilmember Shipman noted that although Austin is the third largest association city in the United States, associations cannot meet here because we simply do not have the facilities. She said she would like to see the Committee help promote the spirit of such a facility.

Ms. Cilley suggested that the Council send a letter to the Committee and make a formal request of them, because at the present time she doesn't feel that they see the promotion of a civic center as a part of their charge.

CITIZEN'S TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Councilmember Shipman noted that the Commission only had four meetings in 1983 and that attendance was poor for those meetings. She suggested that perhaps the Commission should be more involved in the Roadway Plan or possibly merged with the Urban Transportation Commission.

Councilmember Duncan noted that the possibility of merging the two commissions had been discussed at previous meetings.

Councilmember Shipman requested that staff return with some facts and figures regarding time spent, issues and whether or not those issues can be incorporated into the work of the Urban Transportation Commission.

Mayor Mullen suggested that the Chairperson, Bill Nolen, be asked to discuss the situation with them in two weeks.

WRECKER STANDARDS COMMISSION

Carl Pettus, Chairperson, suggested that Council either make some changes in the ordinance or do away with the Commission.

The Mayor assured Mr. Pettus that some changes would be made to the Commission.

Mr. Pettus suggested that the size of the Commission be reduced to five people who are willing to contribute their time and efforts.

Mayor Mullen said that the Council would look at revising the ordinance and strengthening the Commission within the next couple of weeks.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Mary Arnold, a member of PARD, encouraged Council to make the appointment for one person with navigational expertise soon.

ADJOURN

5:03 p.m.