

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Austin, Texas

Special Meeting - May 22, 1973

The meeting of the Commission was called to order at 4:30 p.m. in the City Council Room, Municipal Building.

Present

William Milstead, Chairman
David Barrow, Jr.
Charles Betts
Bob Bobbitt
Royce Faulkner
C. W. Hetherly
Buford Stewart

Absent

Jean Mather

Also Present

Richard Lillie, Director of Planning
Joe Liro, Budget Director
Bill Snyder, Capitol Improvements
John German, Associate Director of Traffic and Transportation
Beverly Sheffield, Director of Parks and Recreation Department
Henry Mecredy, Planner
Andrea Winchester, Clerk IV

Mr. Milstead stated that the Capital Improvements Committee had held fifteen meetings concerning this year's C.I.P. proposals. These proposals are being submitted to the City Manager 120 days before the close of this fiscal year. The Committee has met with department heads of various City Departments, members of the Planning Department and Research and Budget staffs, and Mr. Bill Snyder. The Commission members reviewed the different areas of the C.I.P. proposal and their relation to the current Master Plan.

The Commission expressed concern over the coordination with the State Highway Department in relation to Public Works projects to insure the city's readiness to take care of traffic that comes off the freeways. Mr. Milstead suggested that a public hearing be set for June 12, 1973, at which time a presentation could be made by the State Highway Department concerning the Spur 69 interchange. Mr. Petit, Past President of the Capitol City Lion's Club, brought to the Commission's attention the fact that paving is needed badly on Webberville Road from Oak Springs to East 19th Street. The Commission expressed concern over getting Austin's remaining unpaved streets paved. Mr. Lillie pointed out that there could be several reasons why this collector street has not been paved, one being lack of traffic demand and another being that the adjoining property owners have not submitted a petition to pave the street.

The following General Government items were summarized by Mr. Milstead:

1. The City Auditorium is requesting \$100,000 to follow its needs as outlined in a recent study.
2. Some projects in relation to the Aviation Department have been postponed due to changes being made by the F.A.A.

3. The Fire Department is following the previous plan and the Committee urges the updating of the present Fire Protection Plan.
4. Parking facilities for the Hospital are being recommended for the year 1977-78; at this time the Hospital is progressing with plans as set forth last year by the City Council with an additional request for warehousing and a covering over the patient dismissal area.
5. The Library is following the plan that was previously adopted. Several citizens were present and felt that land for a library in the Peyton Gin Road and Lamar Boulevard area should be obtained as soon as possible because land is becoming unavailable in that area.
6. The Police and Courts section is proceeding according to the previously adopted plan.
7. In the area of Miscellaneous General Government, it was pointed out that some additional study could be done on the various satellite yards and maintenance facilities before any money, other than emergency expenditures, is spent to improve the present facilities. Provision was made in this area under the future category for a new City hall.
8. The Mass Transit Department is following the previous plan. It will be a little easier to determine what is needed in this area after the system has completed one full year's service.

Citizens were present and were interested in parks and greenbelt land. Concern was expressed over the immediate need for restroom facilities in the picnic area of Givens Park. One person present stated that he did not feel the proposed club house for Givens Park would be sufficient, it should be much larger than the one that is being constructed at Metz Park. Evidence was given that indicated that provisions had been set up in 1968 for a recreation building at Givens Park, which has not been constructed. Mr. Milstead pointed out that at this time there just is not money for a project of this scope and there cannot be any unless it is placed in the future category. If funds should become available from the Federal government, that is another matter, but as of now the money just isn't available. Mr. Stewart requested that the Parks and Recreation Board check into the report that planning was done on a recreation center for Givens Park in 1968, and the fact that apparently funds were set aside for it at that time. Mr. Hetherly stated that he would like to recommend that something be done soon about the restroom facilities for this park. Mr. Milstead pointed out that this should come before the Parks and Recreation Board for them to decide the priorities of each item. A citizen pointed out that nine hole golf courses, such as the one planned for the Webberville site, are not economical, they tend to loose money.

Mr. Milstead stated that the C.I.P. Committee has been concerned mainly with what utility needs will be required in the fiscal year beginning October 1973. The Committee has done its best to anticipate needs and requirements for the four years following that. It has been necessary to move some projects up to the coming year and some items have had to be given lower priority, partly due to the energy crisis.

The utility departments have a good record for providing service. Inflation has played a large part in the need for increasing the dollar amount in this area. The need for an alternate source of fuel has added to the total dollar figure considerably. Many of the decisions made by the department officials in these areas are based on technical knowledge and the Committee did not feel qualified to say whether or not the proposals should be followed as requested.

Mr. Joe Teal, a citizen, expressed concern over the fact that the city does not have sufficient storage tanks for fuel oil that is needed and therefore has to pay more for the oil. Mr. Liro stated that the current C.I.P. budget was amended in 1973 to provide additional capacity to Holly Plant and Decker Plant. The construction of these tanks is now underway. He also pointed out that even though the city has the tanks, it has no assurance that there will be fuel oil to fill them.

Mr. Stewart expressed concern over the fact that the city is running out of sewer line extensions, the city is growing rapidly away from the city limits and existing sewer lines.

The Commission members discussed the testimony that had been given and reviewed the C.I.P. proposals. The citizen input was taken into consideration whenever possible. Mr. Milstead stated that he felt this was a reasonable program because it can be funded, at least for the immediate future. Mr. Stewart moved that the Planning Commission recommend this Capital Improvements Program to the City Manager for this consideration as a feasible plan. Mr. Bobbitt seconded the motion. The Commission then

VOTED: To RECOMMEND the Capital Improvements Program for the fiscal years 1973-1978 to the City Manager.

AYE: Messrs. Milstead, Barrow, Betts, Bobbitt, Faulkner, Hetherly
and Stewart

ABSENT: Ms. Mather.