

City Planning Commission

Austin, Texas

Special Meeting - May 22, 1974

The meeting of the Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Electric Building Auditorium.

Present

William Milstead, Chairman  
Charles Betts  
Betty Himmelblau  
Philip Juarez  
Jean Mather  
Charles Nash  
Bennie Washington

Absent

O. P. "Bob" Bobbitt  
C. W. Hetherly

Also Present

Joseph Liro, Director Research & Budget  
Bill Snyder, Capital Improvements Coordinator  
Harry Savio, Analyst  
Blain Keith, Analyst  
Roy Bayless, Aviation Director  
Lester E. Rogers, Director Vehicle & Equipment Services  
Beverly Laws, Police Department  
Carl Gandy, Manager Auditorium & Convention Center  
Ed Kirkham, Fire Chief  
Dr. John Sessums, Director Health Department  
William Brown, Administrator Brackenridge Hospital  
David Holt, Director Library  
R. L. Hancock, Director Electric Utility  
Rodger White, Water & Wastewater  
Jack Robinson, Director Parks and Recreation  
Charles Graves, Director Engineering  
Stewart Henry, Director Environmental Resource Management  
Reuben Rountree, Director Public Works  
Joseph Morahan, Public Property Manager  
Henry Mecredy, Jr., Supervising Planner  
Pat Settle, Secretary I

Mr. Milstead called the meeting to order. Members reviewed the Capital Improvements Program requests submitted by all departments and discussed in detail the following areas of the proposals:

Municipal Court: Mr. Liro pointed out that the problem of the court renovation was resolved when the remodeling of police facilities was undertaken. He recommended this item, stating that financing is provided

by transferrable and general funds. Mr. Milstead commented on the interim municipal administrative facilities made available by the City Council and that the item for \$15 million was placed in the "Future" category for municipal office facilities.

Police: Parking situation for the police facility was discussed and Mr. Milstead pointed out that there has been negotiation with the State Highway Department for parking space under I. H. 35 and with the owners of the property located north of the police facility.

Auditorium and Coliseum: Mr. Gandy reported on the various activities and the need for a larger coliseum in order to bring in additional activities. Ms. Himmelblau stated she would like to see this item accomplished and would be opposed to moving it to the "Future". Ms. Himmelblau was of the opinion that the lighting in the auditorium is inadequate and she stated she would like to see a new lighting console provided. The members were in agreement that the long-range plans for the auditorium and coliseum remain a problem, and that this is an area where something needs to be done to increase the use of these facilities. However, members were in agreement that additional study needs to be made on the feasibility of expansion or modification of the facilities before any major expenditures are made.

Fire Department: Chief Kirkham reported that the Fire Protection Plan has been followed and will be completed with the completion of the Southeast Austin fire station. Mr. Milstead commended this department for their efforts in acquiring land at an early date.

Health: Members reviewed the information presented and again suggested that consideration be given to the feasibility of leasing branch center facilities.

Hospital: Members reviewed the Hospital CIP proposal. Mr. Brown pointed out that the parking situation will become critical about mid-June when it becomes necessary to vacate the parking area north of East 15th Street in preparation for University of Texas expansion. Mr. Brown explained in detail the complexities of designing a balanced hospital. Mr. Milstead stated that all the available bond funds are used for the financing of the hospital facility. Mr. Brown pointed out that about \$139,000 of the hospital's original request will be rewritten and placed in their operating budget.

Library: Mr. Milstead pointed out that the City is following a library plan. According to the plan the central facility is somewhat behind due to the selection of the site.

Urban Transportation: Mr. Liro discussed the transit systems projects and the traffic signalization items. Mr. Ternus pointed out that the bond programs are a continuation of the present programs and are consistent to the Austin Transit Program presented to the Council two years ago. He also stated that the signalization program is an extension of the present program and that the reversible lanes will be expanded. Mr. Milstead pointed out that in one of the CIP work sessions members encouraged more information be furnished the public on those routes that are computerized.

Electric: R. L. Hancock reviewed the funding for power generation. Mr. Milstead commended the Electric Department for their past service and also for their ability to look forward to the future needs of Austin. He stated that the Commission members had to rely on this department's ability to present a reasonable program and one that would be fundable based on future authority of the voters for selling bonds.

Water and Wastewater: Mr. Milstead commended this department in their ability to meet the City's water and wastewater needs. Mr. Milstead pointed out that most of this package is part of a plan that has been laid out for the past several years.

Parks and Recreation: Mr. Milstead stated that adjustments had been made in this program to accommodate certain recommendations of the Bi-Centennial Commission. He pointed out that through prior Capital Improvements Programs the City has already committed \$2.04 million to the beautification of Town Lake. The Commission is recommending \$1.2 million for the acquisition of greenbelt and park land as a Bi-Centennial commitment.

Mr. Milton Fagenbush, representing the Balcones Civic Association and the Northwest Hills Civic Association, expressed concern and interest in an 18.9-acre tract of land in Westover Hills near Hill Elementary School, Anderson High School and Mesa Drive to be used as a park. Members agreed that the request is too late to get into the current CIP, however, they encouraged Mr. Fagenbush and area residents to continue working with the Parks and Recreation Department for future consideration of this site.

Public Works: Members reviewed the packet presented. A number of residents affected by the proposed re-routing of Red River Street were present and expressed opposition. Those citizens present were:

Larry Brownstein  
Mr. Shy  
Larry Forgee

Jim Meyers  
Dr. John Douglas

Mr. Ternus reported that the proposed Red River project is the result of contractual agreements between the City and The University of Texas. He explained that the proposed plan is considered to be the most feasible. Ms. Himmelblau suggested that an environmental impact study be made before these plans are carried out. Members agreed that the traffic-carrying capacity of Red River needs to be increased but they made no recommendation as to the route or design of the project, stating that environmental studies need to be made and public hearings held prior to finalization of the plans.

Another project of Public Works discussed was the Riverside Drive improvement project.

Joseph Morahan pointed out to the Commission that the City has now gotten approval to acquire right-of-way for MoPac but lack of appraisers is still a problem.

After the Commission reviewed the entire Capital Improvements Program proposals, Mr. Nash moved for approval of the proposed program.

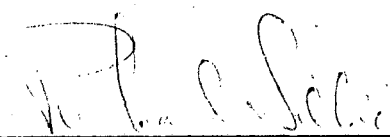
COMMISSION VOTE:

To RECOMMEND the 1974-1979 Capital Improvements Program in the amount of \$975,559,000.

AYE: Messrs. Milstead, Betts, Juarez, Nash and Washington.

Mmes. Himmelblau and Mather

ABSENT: Messrs. Bobbitt and Hetherly

  
Richard Lillie  
Executive Secretary