



Austin City Council MINUTES For

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING - NOVEMBER 25, 1991
BRACKENRIDGE HOSPITAL - 1:00 P.M.
SUB-COMMITTEE ON BRACKENRIDGE HOSPITAL**

1. **Call to order - Mrs. Betty Himmelblau, chair, Hospital Board and Mayor Pro Tem Urdy.**

Mayor Pro Tem Urdy called to order the Brackenridge Subcommittee meeting, noting the presence of Councilmembers Garcia, Nofziger and Reynolds.

2. **Consider and make recommendations regarding Proposal of Hospital Ordinance Change (1-8).**

Supervising City Attorney Sandy Bockelman told the sub-committee the changes consist of making ex-officio members of the City Manager, the Brackenridge Hospital Chief of Staff, Director of the Austin-Travis County Health & Human Services Department, a physician selected by the chairperson of the Hospital Board, and all past chiefs of the medical staff since 1985. These members may attend and participate in all meetings of the board, but will not have voting rights. They will also be exempt from the financial disclosure requirements of the Code of the City of Austin, 1981, Chapter 2-3.

It was further clarified that all members will be appointed by the City Council with none being appointed by the City Manager. The size of the Subcommittee will remain at nine members with the appointments being moved to November rather than October. Three year terms will expire with four members instead of three.

Ms. Bockelman went on to say the Advisory Council has been repealed, due to lack of interest. If a problem should arise, out of the ordinary, the hospital director can notify the board. Also, the attorney who will serve will be appointed by the City Council.

Motion

Councilmember Reynolds made a motion to better define Section 6-3-24 and eliminate the odd and even numbered years of expiration with

terms being decided by a draw. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion with a recommendation that the appointed attorney should be someone who specializes and is licensed in general practice with experience in health care matters. Councilmember Nofziger made a friendly amendment to stipulate in general language that any attorney appointed may not have a conflict of interest with either staff physicians, hospital or the City of Austin, with that wording place in the packet that interested persons pick up with their application. Motion passed by a vote of 4-0. (Councilmembers present)

3. Consider and make recommendations for Community Based, Nonprofit Planning Committee.

Motion

Mayor Pro Tem Urdy made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Nofziger to allow a priority agenda to fulfill the goals of the Board to bring a workable plan to Council in reference to the study of a non-profit hospital and to keep the community informed of the hospital's progress. Motion passed on a 4-0 Vote. (Councilmembers present)

4. Update on status of Medical Examiner Facility.

John Dandridge, Brackenridge Hospital Administrator, said the City and County were to close on the Medical Examiners Facility on November 22, 1991, but due to a delay in the architectural planning, that did not happen. The County has asked for a hook-up with the City of Austin's chiller that provides service to Brackenridge. Mr. Dandridge advised against this because the chiller does not have the capacity to take on a heavier load which would lead to an increase in money for use and maintenance of the chiller. The Sub-committee members agreed with Mr. Dandridge and instructed him to send word to the County denying their request.

5. Discussion of potential changes to Mental Health Mental Retardation Detox Services availability.

Ms. Bockelman reported that Brackenridge has been having to deal with detox patients more and more lately because the State facilities are overcrowded and refuse to take the patients. She said Brackenridge and the Police Department do not have the proper staff or facilities to handle such cases. Mrs. Himmelblau stated Brackenridge does not want to get involved in these cases because it would involve dealing not only with the patients in Austin but the surrounding counties and this would be very costly to the City of Austin. Ms. Bockelman asked for the City to look at resources, and perhaps a facility, to house the detox overloads. She said the the Council should be included in any decision making and perhaps involve the County in this problem so that mental health will not be ignored.

6. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 P.M.