

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Special Meeting

October 9, 1973
5:00 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

The meeting was called to order with Mayor Butler presiding.

Roll Call:

Present: Councilmen Dryden, Binder, Mayor Pro Tem Love,
Councilmen Lebermann, Friedman, Handcox, Mayor Butler
Absent: None

Mayor Butler announced this was a Special Meeting called for the purpose to announce plans for a group of officials, staff, representatives of the Energy Study Committee, and the Environmental Board along with two pooled news media, and others to make a trip to view the nuclear plant in Massachusetts.

Mayor Butler stated the Council members had a communication before them stating (1) if the Council recommended a new source of fuel; and (2) if the voters approve it, Austin would be eligible for a 16% participation in the Houston, Corpus Christi, and San Antonio project.

The City Manager, while attending the City Manager Association convention, had had an opportunity to see the plant in Boston, Massachusetts. Technology is advancing continuously, and if Austin intends to build a 1980 model, there would be no value of their looking at a 1939 model. This Boston Plant is the newest plant that has a track record.

It was thought that the Council would gain valuable information if it made the trip to the Boston Plant. It was recommended that a citizen member of the Energy Study Committee, one from the Environmental Board, as well as two pooled news media, the City Manager, and members of his staff make this trip.

City Manager Davidson listed the schedules of departure Sunday morning and arrival in Boston at 4:51, then proceeding to the City of Plymouth. The Boston Edison Company would take the group on a tour of that plant. The Company anticipated

that the Council and some of the citizen representatives would want to discuss the plant with various citizens in the Community, and Boston Edison Company would welcome the discussion.

City Manager Davidson wanted City Attorney, Don Butler; Director of Electric Utilities, R.L. Hancock; and Public Information Director, Glenn Cootes to be a part of those making the trip, as well as, a member from the Energy Study Committee, the Environmental Quality Board, and Mr. Vic Mathias, at the expense of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Butler announced that these funds would be from the Utility Revenue System, and not from the Taxpayer's money.

Councilman Lebermann announced that since the City of Austin had been invited back in for consideration at least to the South Texas Project, that it be pointed out that before the consideration was for 19.5% participation. Now it has been reduced to 16%, and the reduction is rather significant.

Mr. John O'Connell made several inquiries which Mayor Butler, Mayor Pro Tem Love and Councilman Handcox explained or answered.

City Manager Davidson pointed out there is no operating plant in the State of Texas of the type he had visited in Massachusetts, even though there are six underway. The plant they had seen is completed and has been under successful operation. Some of the most important observations that he had heard came from employees who work there on a shift every day. The City Council has to make some of the initial decisions as far as Austin is concerned, and they want to be well informed as to what the dollars had produced, the benefits and problems to overcome, etc.

City Manager Davidson stated the Company was gracious to let him tour the plant, and agreed to take a group from Austin.

Mr. Bob Canal referred to a group at MIT who work against Nuclear Power. City Manager Davidson stated their first project they had opposed was the Pilgram Plant. Since then, they had opposed seven or eight plants along the Atlantic Seaboard as the public hearings came up. Mr. Canal reported there were more than 200 individual groups on the east coast, and more than 10 of those groups in the Boston Metropolitan area. Mr. Canal's interests were about the safety and waste disposal of nuclear power plants.

Councilman Dryden restated that Austin is concerned of course, but the plant is to be constructed in South Texas, whether or not Austin is involved.

Mayor Butler referred Mr. Canal to the Houston Lighting and Power in connection with this plant.

Mayor Pro Tem Love suggested that Mr. Canal read the Bechtel report.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council then adjourned.

APPROVED


Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk