MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Special Meeting

October 17, 1973
5:00 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, 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 that this was a Special Meeting called for the purpose of giving instructions to the City administration in preparation for a revenue bond election on November 17. City Attorney Don Butler reported that the formal call for an election could not be handled at this time, because this could not occur prior to 30 days before the election, and it could not be done at the following night's meeting because it was not on the agenda. He stated, however, that some direction to the staff was needed for polling places, voting machines, and drawing up issues to be submitted to the voters.

Motion

Mayor Pro Tem Love moved the Council request the City staff to begin immediate preparations for holding a revenue bond election on November 17, 1973, to consider expenditures on the City's electrical system with all instruments for such election being presented to the Council for action during the coming week.

Councilman Friedman reported that two proposals to be proposed at the following evening's meeting concerned a progressive rate schedule for utility bills, and elimination of the favored all-electric status for commercial and residential. While the progressive rates would apply to already existing homes, the elimination of favored all-electric status would apply only to new construction.

The motion, seconded by Councilman Lebermann, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Butler, Mayor Pro Tem Love, Councilmen Binder, Dryden,
Friedman, Handcox, Lebermann
Noes: None

The Council discussed ten proposed options for the makeup of the bond election ballot, with Councilman Handcox voicing a preference for Option 6 and Mayor Pro Tem Love for Option 2. Mayor Butler noted that Councilman Lebermann would be absent from the October 18 meeting, and Councilman Lebermann indicated that he would leave with the Council his preferences.

In response to Councilman Dryden's question, City Manager Davidson explained the nature of the ten options (Option 1 being one single issue, Options 2 and 3 breaking down the issues of coal and nuclear, and Options 4-10 supplementing these with a referendum). City Attorney Don Butler noted that Options 2-10 allowed for greater voter input beyond the single issue of authorizing approximately $400 million. There would be problems if a breakdown did not first have the overall authorization for the total amount. Mayor Pro Tem Love spoke in favor of the options which included a referendum, and Councilman Friedman concurred. Mayor Pro Tem Love further suggested making the referendum binding, which City Attorney Don Butler noted could be accomplished by splitting up and earmarking the separate items. Mayor Butler noted that this might cause problems if, for example, coal were authorized and then the City was unable to obtain coal; a new election would have to be held. Mayor Pro Tem Love suggested making a decision on the option to be included on the ballot at the next night's meeting, and Mayor Butler noted that a hearing would be held at that time. Mayor Butler suggested October 24 as the best time for a special meeting to call formally for the bond election since it would enable all members of the Council to be present.

Motion

Mayor Pro Tem Love moved the Council call a Special Meeting on October 24, 1973, at 11:00 A.M. to consider an ordinance calling for the bond election on November 17. The motion, seconded by Councilman Lebermann, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Love, Councilmen Binder, Dryden, Friedman,
       Handcox, Lebermann, Mayor Butler
Noes: None

Mayor Butler noted that the 11:00 Special Meeting would be in lieu of a 5:00 Special Meeting for October 24.

The Council then adjourned.

APPROVED: *Roy Butler*
Mayor

ATTEST: *Grace Monroe*
City Clerk