

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Special Meeting

January 30, 1978
12:00 NoonCouncil Chambers
301 West Second Street

The meeting was called to order with Mayor McClellan presiding.

Roll Call:

Present: Mayor McClellan, Councilmembers Cooke, Mullen, Snell,
Mayor Pro Tem Trevino

Absent: Councilmembers Goodman, Himmelblau

Mayor McClellan opened the Special Called Council meeting by indicating that she wanted to share with the Council the results of a meeting which she had with Deputy Secretary Meis of the Air Force at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. She stated that also in attendance at that meeting were MR. DICK HODGKINS, Chairperson of the Airport Master Plan Citizen's Advisory Committee, Mr. Roy Bayless, City Aviation Director and Mr. Jim Miller, Assistant City Manager. Mayor McClellan stated that about a month ago, the Council unanimously passed a motion to aggressively pursue the option of Bergstrom Air Force Base as a joint-use facility. She stated that she had previously received a letter from Deputy Secretary Meis stating that joint-use at this time would not be in the best interest of all concerned. Mayor McClellan stated that she had asked Deputy Secretary Meis to reconsider the matter in the light of updated information on the Airport Master Plan. She stated that the Deputy Secretary did not feel that the tactical operations of Bergstrom A.F.B. and Austin's heavy air traffic would be compatible. Mayor McClellan stated that she had told Deputy Secretary Meis that the Master Plan submitted by the last Council was devised in accordance with FAA guidelines issued in 1971. She stated that an alternative which the Air Force would consider would be if the City put in an entirely new runway with a 4300' separation from the present runway. Mayor McClellan indicated that she had stressed to Deputy Secretary Meis that the City did not, in any way, want to hinder the operations or the future of Bergstrom A.F.B.

Mr. Bayless told the Council that building a new runway as suggested by Deputy Secretary Meis would be under Alternative B - "Modified" in the site selection plan as suggested by the consultants, R. Dixon Speas. He stated that elements that would have to be considered would be air space, aviation, environmental factors, land use, zoning, accessibility, engineering and construction costs. Under summaries and conclusions, the consultant would address compatibility with Bergstrom operations, joint facility opportunities and the continuing

roll of Mueller Airport under Alternative B - Modified. Mr. Bayless indicated that an update of the Tims site evaluation in comparison to Alternative B - Modified of the site selection plan would include property requirements at Tims based on new noise contours, environmental updating to the extent of residential growth since the study and current construction costs to compare with Alternative B - Modified. Mr. Bayless pointed out that the consultants' fee for modification of Alternative B would be \$20,950, and \$4,000 to update information concerning Tims Airport.

Mayor McClellan asked what funding sources were available for the study. Assistant City Manager Joe Liro told the Council that the ending balance of the Airport fund is designated for Capital Improvements and that this would be one source of money. He stated that some new appropriations could be made by the Council for Capital Improvements. Mr. Liro stated that the City was currently anticipating receiving money from the FAA for various aviation-related improvements. He stated that the total of these items would amount to \$201,000. Mr. Liro stated that there is a possibility that the City could qualify for a grant from the Texas Aeronautics Commission, and indicated that he would look into that.

Mr. Bayless pointed out that the biggest problem in both proposals were environmental considerations. Mayor Pro Tem Trevino stated that he was concerned about the environmental impact on the Govalle and Montopolis areas of the city. Councilmember Cooke did not see how building an entirely new runway 4300' from Bergstrom was really going to help the City. He stated that the Air Force was evidently looking for a minimum separation agreement. Also, Councilmember Cooke questioned why the City was considering building a new runway so close to the city. He felt that, 20 years from now, a runway of this type would be cause for even more problems relating to the airport and suggested building on a site further out of town as have the cities of Dallas and Forth Worth. Mr. Bayless indicated that there were many other factors that went into site location for an airport and that the consultant did review the idea of placing a site on the periphery of the city. Mayor McClellan indicated that she wanted to see air safety addressed in that she found it alarming that there are now 3 to 6 near misses per year. Mr. Bayless also included that the Snafu intersections problem was one that would worsen with time as air traffic at Robert Mueller Airport increases. Mayor Pro Tem Trevino indicated that the possibility of a plane crashing into a residential area would be increased if Bergstrom is used as a joint-use facility.

Mayor McClellan asked Mr. Hodgkins if his committee could look into the situation and make a recommendation to Council on whether the alternatives should be pursued with the consultant. She asked if this could be done by the Thursday (February 2nd) Council meeting. Mr. Hodgkins indicated that he saw no reasons why this could not be done.

MOTION

Councilmember Mullen moved that the Council refer the matter to the Airport Master Plan Citizen's Advisory Committee for recommendations on whether or not extra money should be spent on additional consulting work.

In response to a question from Councilmember Cooke, Mr. Bayless indicated that the cost of constructing a new runway adjacent to Bergstrom would probably exceed \$40 million and that the cost of locating one at Tims Airport would be about \$68 million. Mayor McClellan stated that the problem needed to be addressed from an economic standpoint, a safety standpoint and from the standpoint

of how it would impact people. She indicated that there was a need to know what was feasible. Mr. Hodgkins indicated that the Council could do one of two things. He stated that the Council could allocate the additional amount of money needed to conduct the study, or it could do nothing. He felt that there was more of a problem connected with premature landings than there was with Snafu intersection. Mr. Hodgkins felt that the additional study was needed and that his committee could not make a valid recommendation to the Council without it. Mayor McClellan stated that the consultant will be in town to meet with the committee. She also felt that it would be helpful if the consultant could be present at the regular Thursday Council meeting.

Roll Call On Motion

Roll call on the above motion showed the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor McClellan, Councilmembers Cooke, Mullem, Snell, Mayor Pro
Tem Trevino

Noes: None

Absent: Councilmembers Goodman, Himmelblau

ADJOURNMENT

The Council then adjourned at 12:45 P.M.

Approved

Carol Keeton McClellan
Mayor

Attest:

Grace Monroe
City Clerk