



**Austin City Council
MINUTES**

**Special Called Meeting
September 14, 1999**

The following represents the actions taken by the Austin City Council in the order they occurred during the meeting. While the minutes are not in sequential order, all agenda items were discussed.

The City Council of Austin, Texas, convened a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 1999 at City Council Chambers, 307 West Second Street, for the following purposes:

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all Council Members present.

1. Approve an ordinance adopting the Operating Budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1999 and terminating September 30, 2000, and making appropriations for each department, project, and account, including the errata.

Council Member Garcia moved the third reading of the ordinance adopting and approving the operating budget for fiscal year beginning October 1, 1999 and terminating September 30, 2000, and making appropriations for each department project, including the errata.

Council Member Garcia withdrew his motion to adopt the budget to allow for action on the following amendments. Mayor Pro Tem Goodman, who made the second, agreed.

The amendment to reduce the General Fund's beginning balance by \$800,000 and increase the amount transferred from Austin Energy was approved on Council Member Garcia's motion, Council Member Spelman's second on a 7-0 vote.

The amendment to increase General Fund revenue associated with the Town Lake Animal Shelter (Health and Human Services) for pet registration fees in the amount of \$20,000 was approved on Council Member Griffith's motion, Council Member Slusher's second on a 7-0 vote.

The amendment to increase General Fund revenue associated with the continuation of the Austin Energy subsidy for non-resident library borrowers in the amount of \$20,000 was approved on Mayor Pro Tem Goodman's motion, Council Member Garcia's second on a 5-2 vote. Council Members Griffith and Slusher voted no.

Reconsideration of the above amendment was approved on Council Member Garcia's motion, Council Member Spelman's second on a 7-0 vote.

After further discussion, the above amendment was approved on Mayor Pro Tem Goodman's motion, Council Member Garcia's second on a 5-2 vote. Council Member Griffith and Slusher voted no.

The amendment to increase the transfer into the Conservation Rebate and Incentives Fund from the Electric Utility Fund by \$1,000,000 and increase the budgeted expenditures to the Commercial – Existing line by \$600,000, the Loan Options line by \$100,000 and Rebate Options line by \$300,000 was made by Mayor Pro Tem Goodman and seconded by Council Member Lewis.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Garcia to recommend not considering the fund amendment at this time. The fund amendment would be sent back to management and the Electric Utility Commission for their review to see how to use the money. The issue should come back to Council for consideration this winter to make sure it is approved prior to the high-energy consumption months. The substitute motion was seconded by Council Member Slusher and was approved on a 4-3 vote. Mayor Pro Tem Goodman and Council Members Griffith and Lewis voted no.

The amendment to increase expenditures in the Solid Waste Service's Pay as You Throw Recycling Program by \$75,000 and decrease the ending fund balance by the same amount, to provide for a recycling alternative drop off center, was approved on Council Member Slusher's motion, Council Member Spelman's second on a 7-0 vote.

Ordinance No. 990914-1 as amended was approved on third reading Council Member Garcia's motion, Mayor Pro Tem Goodman's second on a 7-0 vote.

4. Approve an ordinance authorizing fees, fines, and other charges for City of Austin services and use of City of Austin facilities.

The motion to remove from the table the motion made at the September 13, 1999 Council meeting, to reduce the Police Residential Alarm Permit fee from \$25 to \$20 (negative General Fund revenue impact of \$82,000) was approved on Mayor Pro Tem Goodman's motion, Council Member Lewis' second on a 7-0 vote.

The motion to reduce the fee made by Council Member Lewis, second by Mayor Pro Tem Goodman, failed on a 3-4 vote. Mayor Watson, Council Members Garcia, Slusher and Spelman voted no.

Ordinance No. 990914-4 was approved on third reading as amended at the September 13 Council meeting on Council Member Garcia's motion, Council Member Spelman's second on a 7-0 vote.

3. Approve an ordinance fixing and levying municipal Ad Valorem taxes for the City of Austin, Texas for the fiscal year 1999-2000, and for each year thereafter until otherwise provided; directing the assessment and collection of those taxes; approving property tax exemptions for agriculture, historic property, persons with disabilities, and elderly persons; and validating all prior Ad Valorem taxes.

Ordinance No. 990914-3 was approved on third reading at a rate of \$.5034 per \$100 assessed valuation on Council Member Garcia's motion, Mayor Pro Tem Goodman's second on a 7-0 vote.

6. Approve an ordinance adopting the Capital and Operating Budgets for Austin Energy for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1999 and terminating September 30, 2000 and making appropriations for each project and account, including the errata and amendments approved to other funds.

The amendment to reduce a transfer to the Capital Improvement Project by \$3,500,000, over two years, for a pilot program for underground lines was approved on Council Member Spelman's motion, Council Member Garcia's second on a 4-2-1 vote. Mayor Pro Tem Goodman and Council Member Griffith voted no. Council Member Lewis abstained.

A friendly amendment by Council Member Lewis to have a report on the underground lines presented to City Council on November 18, 1999 was approved by Council Member Spelman, the maker of the motion, and Council Member Garcia who made the second.

Ordinance No. 990914-6 was approved on third reading, as amended above and including amendments approved to other funds, on Council Member Garcia's motion, Council Member Griffith's second on a 7-0 vote.

2. Approve an ordinance adopting the Capital Budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1999 and terminating September 30, 2000 and making appropriations for each project and account, including the errata.

This ordinance was approved on three readings on September 13, 1999.

5. Approve a resolution authorizing changes to the City Council resolution adopted in December 1996 which established guidelines and financial targets for enhancing the competitive position of Austin's Electric Utility, Austin Energy. (Resolution establishes guidelines for future utility operations.) (Recommended by Electric Utility Commission)

This ordinance was approved on three readings on September 13, 1999.

7. Approve an ordinance providing for the classification of and number of positions of the classified Civil Service of the Police Department.

This ordinance was approved on three readings on September 13, 1999.

8. Approve an ordinance providing for the classification of and number of positions of the classified Civil Service of the Fire Department.

This ordinance was approved on three readings on September 13, 1999.

9. Approve Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Cultural Arts Services Contracts in the amount of \$3,048,057 (Funding available in the Cultural Arts Fund).

This resolution was approved on September 13, 1999.

ADJOURNED AT 11:11 a.m. on Council Member Garcia's motion, Council Member Slusher's second on a 7-0 vote.

The minutes for the Special Called Meetings of September 13, 1999, September 14, 1999 and the minutes for the Regular Meeting of October 7, 1999 were approved on this the 28th day of October, 1999 on Council Member Spelman's motion, Council Member Griffith's second by a 4-0 vote. Council Member Garcia was off the dais. Mayor Pro Tem Goodman and Lewis were absent