

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

March 11, 1980

Councilors in Attendance

Presiding Officer March Kafoury
Coun. Donna Stuhr
Coun. Charles Williamson
Coun. Corky Kirkpatrick
Coun. Jane Rhodes
Coun. Betty Shedeem
Coun. Ernie Bonner
Coun. Cindy Banzer
Coun. Gene Peterson
Coun. Mike Burton

Others in Attendance

Carolyn Young
Sylvia Stinson
Rick Newton
Bruce Pokarney
Phil Adamsak
Gina Tuttle
George Harris
Carol Lewis

In Attendance

Executive Officer Rick Gustafson

Staff in Attendance

Denton U. Kent
Andrew Jordan
Warren Iliff
Kay Rich
Caryl Waters
Ann Brown
Jack McGowan
Judy Bieberle
Judy Henry
Marie Nelson
Mary Carder

A special meeting of the Metropolitan Service District Council which was continued from the meeting of February 28, to March 11, was called to order by Presiding Officer Marge Kafoury at 12:00 noon. The meeting was held at the Zoo Educational Building.

Presiding Officer Kafoury explained that the meeting of February 28 had been adjourned to March 11 for the purpose of continuing discussion of Ordinance No. 80-86, Submitting Metropolitan Service District Zoo Serial Levies, Second Reading.

Executive Officer Rick Gustafson advised the Council of complications which had arisen with reference to the proposed Zoo serial levy. Both sections of a complex ballot must be approved by the voters or the Zoo will face severe operational cutbacks. The Attorney General's opinion had been received on this day, and left the Council no choice but to limit the "A" ballot proposal to \$1.46

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million (27% less than the \$2 million previously approved by the voters).

Mr. Gustafson further explained that projected financial needs for operation and maintenance of the Zoo for FY 1981 to 1984 are \$2.7 million per year. He pointed out that, if the voters approve only the \$1.46 million "A" ballot, there will be no added or improved exhibits and it will be necessary to cut existing operations and maintenance 27%.

Mr. Warren Iliff, Director of the Zoo, explained the severe curtailment of services that will be necessitated if either levy fails. He said staff will continue efforts to raise private capital, but in the event of levy failure, it will be necessary to use that capital for operations and maintenance.

Coun. Kirkpatrick asked for clarification on the required cuts. Mr. Iliff explained that the cuts would be for operation and capital replacement. There would be no new capital construction.

Presiding Officer Kafoury said that the Attorney General's opinion was regrettable. She reminded the Council of a commitment made in January to seek support for the Zoo in the May primary election, and that action had to be taken at this meeting to assure that the necessary measures would be on the ballot. She pointed out that to maintain operations and make minimal improvements for better animal facilities, \$5 million would be required. She urged the Council to take action on Ordinance No. 80-86, and to work to promote passage of both the "A" and "B" ballots. Without passage of both ballots, the future of the Zoo would be in jeopardy.

Coun. Stuhr asked for clarification of the impact of each levy on property taxes. The Executive Officer clarified that the combined levy would amount to approximately \$10 per \$50,000 house.

Coun. Williamson said he was opposed to putting this measure on the ballot separately from a measure to support Metro. He wanted to assure Councilors that this was not to be construed as action against the Zoo, but only an objection to the timing of the measure.

Presiding Officer Kafoury explained to Councilors that the Ordinance now before them reflected figures necessitated by the Attorney General's opinion. Therefore, a motion would be required to amend the ordinance which had been read at the meetings of February 14 and 28.

Coun. Schedeen moved, seconded by Coun. Kirkpatrick that Ordinance No. 80-86 be amended to incorporate the figures substituted in the "A" and "B" ballots. All Councilors present voting aye, the motion carried unanimously.

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Councilors discussed the Attorney General's opinion, and its effect on passage of the measure and possible curtailment of Zoo operation and maintenance, as well as capital improvements.

Coun. Banzer was concerned that the Council was dealing with a very serious problem and that Metro was being penalized for using good fiscal sense. She was not sure that the issue should be placed on the May ballot, but felt perhaps the Council should wait to propose a combined levy in November.

The Executive Officer informed Council that the Secretary of State's office had ruled that the deadline had passed for the Zoo measure to be included in the voter's pamphlet. Metro has a communication stating that, to be included in the voter's pamphlet the Zoo measure had to be filed by March 11. Unless there is a new ruling, Metro will contest the matter.

A rollcall vote was taken on the main motion, as amended. Coun. Rhodes, Schedeen, Bonner, Peterson, Kafoury, Burton, Stuhr and Kirkpatrick voted aye. Coun. Williamson voted nay. Coun. Banzer abstained. Couns. Deines and Berkman were absent. The motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Carder
Clerk of the Council

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