

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING ON CRITICAL
ISSUES OF COMMON COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY,
MARCH 26, 1996 CITY HALL, 512 SPRINGFIELD
AVENUE, SUMMIT, NEW JERSEY.**

(Distributed: 4/26/96)
(Approved : 6/5/96)

The meeting was called to order by Council President Olcott at
7:30 P.M.

City Clerk Hughes advised that adequate notice of this meeting had
been provided in accordance with the Law.

Present on Roll Call: President Olcott, Councilmembers Clark, Dill,
MacCowatt, Muñoz, Ogden, and Rosen. Also present were Mayor Long and staff
members, Angelo, Burkholder, Cotter, Hughes, Osmun, Townley, and Schneller.

Councilmember MacCowatt then led the Flag Salute.

President Olcott advised that the purpose of the meeting was to
discuss and deal with as many issues as possible and set priorities after public
comment is made upon them.

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

On motion of Councilmember Clark, and duly seconded, the
following resolution was unanimously adopted:

96-6 - Legal Matters - NJSA 10:4-12.b(7)
City Hall Construction Related Issues

The meeting was then declared closed and the public left.

Upon adjournment of the Closed Session Meeting, the Special
Meeting took place.

Minutes of this meeting are recorded on Cassette Tapes #96-14,
Section 0975-End, #96-15, Section 0000-End, #96-16, Section 0000-1916.

PARKING ISSUES

1. Formation of Parking Advisory Committee - It was agreed to try
for a small committee of 5 to 8 to 10 members consisting of a cross section of
representation - downtown, city hall, residents

2. Development of Additional Parking On the "Triangle" at Chestnut, Broad and Morris -

- a. existing parking problem at City Hall
- b. concern over paving over any green areas
- c. concern over spending money before there is a better handle on the parking situation

It was agreed to have the new Parking Committee deal with this issue.

3. Further Discussions with NJ Transit -

- a. NJT looked at the Kearny II recommendations and found them uneconomical
- b. wait for impact of Kearny Connection since City feels that it has the 200 spaces needed
- c. although NJT felt the Kearny II proposal was uneconomical, it might go for a single deck
- d. subsequent information from NJT says that a single deck is uneconomical also work into negotiations, other City concerns, e.g. bridges, train station security
- e. It was agreed that if NJT approaches us, we will deal with the issues then.

Mayor Long emphasized that the City was trying to keep an open dialogue with NJ Transit and that he wanted to control and manage any garage which would be built. He also advised he was hoping to have a conference with the mayors of the main line commuter towns regarding the issues of parking, etc.

Walter Rauscher, 12 Chestnut Ave., expressed concerns over strings attached to NJ Transit's project. He suggested, if feasible, that the garage construction be done with the top of the deck being at the Broad Street level on which a theater, market or other uses could be considered. He supported Councilmember Rosen's green space idea for the triangle.

Gil Owren, 55 Bellevue Ave., referenced past comments on the sale of the triangle to offset some of the capital project's costs. He suggested that in the future that such offsets not be referenced relative to the cost of the project, or if they are, that the action be able to take place.

Burkholder said most of the money would have had to go back to the County because of Community Development Funds were used to purchase the property.

CAPITAL PROJECTS AND ISSUES

1.
 - a. Library - bid in the fall
 - b. Firehouse - bid at the end of April or early May
 - c. Community Center - hope for recommendation in May
 - d. Old Town Hall - await Historic Preservation Commission recommendation which might be to rent at less than market
 - e. Playing Fields - Mayor is working with County to lease substantial property and then get private sector to develop
 - f. New Providence Sewer Project - some disturbances will occur on main roads. There is some concern in meeting DEP deadlines and possible increased cost to Summit of its own work. Nearly all of this work is being funded by New Providence or part of our agreement with them in connection with sewer capacity rights.

2. Construction Consultant for Library and Firehouse:

Coordination and Timing - There were comments relative to the pros and cons of a construction consultant for both the Library and Firehouse projects. It was agreed to have the staff review the concept and report on same. Subsequently, it has been determined that the projects will be advanced on separate schedules with construction consultant assistance or both.

3. Design Commitment: Morris - Springfield Intersection -

County will undertake this project and it has been submitted to the County Transportation Improvement Plan. We will coordinate with them.

Robert Wolfenbarger, 30 Harvey Drive, questioned the status of the Library fundraising, asked if there was a point where the taxpayers will be responsible and if alternates were considered. He suggested the public needs to know all the decision-making factors regarding all project estimates.

Councilmember MacCowan advised that over half of the money has been raised, the project will not be bid until Fall at which time alternates, if needed, would be considered. Recently most of the City projects have come in under estimated costs.

David Nelson (a young boy in the back of the room) advised he was at the meeting because he was concerned about what was going on in his town.

Gil Owren wondered when the five-year capital plan would be available, suggested coordination between the Board of Education and Council regarding projects, spoke of ADA analysis being done by experts and referenced the Board of Education's savings experience with ADA. Burkholder said the capital plan would be available in the next few weeks.

President Olcott emphasized that the bond houses felt there was an outstanding relationship between the Board of Education and the Council, and he himself felt that it had never been better. He emphasized the importance of this factor in the City's subsequent AAA rating by all three bonding agencies.

FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL ISSUES

1. Internet - Burkholder advised of AT&T's free Internet access for a year, the Library will have Internet access and the Board of Health wants an Internet page. Because of this, he was concerned that the City would be going in different directions. Council comments were as follows:

- a. Internet would permit citizen access to a variety of information on a 24-hour basis and creating same would not get any cheaper
- b. felt not worth the money to reach 5% of the population
- c. yearly cost of \$1,500 would be reusing information and things which are already done and also add quick access to the public regarding actions at Council meetings
- d. there were other concerns regarding the timeliness of getting on the Internet and it was recommended that this be a future DAR issue

2. Consolidation Study: Public Works and Recreation Ground Maintenance - Burkholder gave a summary of the proposal and how it was developed. There was a suggestion that the Board of Education also be considered in the concept. It was generally agreed to consider the study and proceed cautiously, if at all.

3. Strategic Plan Update and Linkage to Summit 2005 - It was agreed to have the staff appropriately tie these two projects together and recommend how much public participation should take place.

4. Update Police and Fire Department Ordinances - It was agreed these actions were necessary with the police ordinance to be done first, and used as a model for the Fire Department.

Bob Wolfenbarger hoped that more would be done with the public information program. He felt that the Internet was the wave of the future, but said there was a need to look at patterns of usage and frequency.

POLICY ISSUES

Personnel Policies - Burkholder to discuss with Employee Relations Advisory Committee.

Taxi Controls - Law Committee has looked at the ordinance and is redoing it which will be referred to the Safety Committee and Council thereafter.

Master Plan and General Zoning - Lynch is committed to get back to the City in short order and Burkholder will follow up regarding feedback.

NEW IDEAS

President Olcott asked the public for input regarding ideas it felt the Council should work on in 1996.

Walter Rauscher asked for reconsideration of how properties are being assessed when business is conducted in the home through electronic communication abilities.

Osmun was not sure if the City had tax powers in this specific regard.

Gil Owren commented on the real estate taxes and capital expenditures being looked at and that their relationship be examined, suggested more regional services and expressed concern over the Wilson School use when more school space is needed. He suggested trying for 100% use by Summit residents, at Wilson and that the Child Care Center should be offered the right to buy it.

Councilmember MacCowatt emphasized that while the property might be assessed at \$3.7 million, it was most likely the Child Care Center would not pay that amount for it and that its value is not challenged since the City owns it.

Dennis Allocco suggested looking into the future before problems arise such as with Wilson School.

1. Line-by-Line Budget - Councilmember Clark felt this was beneficial for all the Council to review which might result in some changes or elimination.

2. Comparison With Other Towns - Councilmember Clark suggested we it might find per capita expenses are higher for Summit and said maybe the League could provide some data.

3. Blue Ribbon Committee on Cost Containment and

4. Prioritization and Improvements of Services - Councilmember Clark thought that some services rendered need to be redetermined and possibly eliminated, changed or added to. General consensus that Blue Ribbon Citizens' committee would not be productive.

5. Expand Regionalization - Councilmember Clark suggested additional services such as tax collection, pothole repair truck leasing, etc.

President Olcott emphasized the regionalization and sharing already done and that efforts should continue. He also felt in some cases it might be difficult when considering "home rule" situations.

6. Passaic River Bank Cleanup and Nature Walk - Councilmember Clark referenced the use of Briant Park and the benefit the Passaic River Park could give if it was in better shape. President Olcott said this was a long term project that Summit 2005 is also considering.

Councilmember Dill advised that it has many native paths along the River which are not well used.

COMMENTS ON NEW IDEAS 1-4

Councilmember Dill felt No. 1 should be done immediately and Burkholder said that if it was done now, it would be better to compare the 1995 detail with 1996.

Councilmember Rosen felt No. 1 was important for the Committees to have in the development process and that the Finance Committee should review all policy changes and bring them to the Council for decisions. He suggested some portion of the line item budget might be appropriate and others might not. He felt No. 2 would be difficult to get a unanimous interpretation, opposed No. 3, felt No. 4 should be ongoing.

7: Village Green Improvements - Councilmember Rosen felt it was not user friendly and that the closing of Elm Street should be reconsidered with a long-range plan developed to create more use by the community and suggests that maybe a consultant would be needed.