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MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Council Chambers
July 19, 1972

The meeting was called to order at 7p.m. by Deputy Mayor Jarstad.

Present on roll call: 8 -Jarstad, Egan, Herrmann, Maule, Moss, Nalley, Schroeder and Sonntag. Absent: Mayor Johnston

Deputy Mayor Jarstad called on City Manager, William Donaldson, who outlined the purpose of the meeting which was for further consideration of the Civic Center Citizen's Advisory Commission's report regarding the establishment of a Civic Center Complex in the City and the methods and means of financing the proposed project. Mr. Donaldson also pointed out that Council can assign priorities to the various bond proposals, including the four Public Works propositions with relation to its desires and the City's bonding capacity.

Deputy Mayor Jarstad then called on Mr. Gene Lewis, Chairman of the Civic Center Citizen's Advisory Commission, who made himself and members of his commission available to questions by the Council.

Mayor Johnston arrives at 7:10.

In response to a question by Mrs. Egan, Mr. Lewis said it was the Commission's feeling that the three parts of the complex are interacting units and financially interdependent and that it would not be financially feasible to eliminate one or more of the parts, but rather to present them to the voters as a three-part package. He pointed out the facility is most important in fulfilling the needs of the community as determined by the Lund, McCutcheon feasibility report. In further response to a question by Dr. Herrmann, he pointed out the proposition for a Civic Center Complex in 1972 is much more feasible than it was in the unsuccessful bid in 1964. He indicated also that the initial operating year of the facility would result in a less than \$50,000 deficit but that in the ensuing years, perhaps in 1980, the facility would be breaking even in terms of operating costs. He said too that the "spinoff" generated by the facility such as increased B & O taxes, real estate values, as well as new buildings triggered by the facility, would have a tremendous economic impact on the City. He indicated that it could cause many other building activities to incur, particularly around the City's waterways. He stated the prime purpose of the complex, according to the studies, was to answer the internal needs for Tacoma and Pierce County and that the use of the facility for regional conventions would be a secondary consideration.

In response to a question by Mr. Maule, Mr. Lewis indicated that the operating funds do incorporate the position of a full time Executive Director who will actively promote the facility within the area as well as without. He said funds also are incorporated for an on-sight field manager as well. In response to an additional question by Mr. Maule, Mr. Lewis indicated his committee is ready to work toward the promotion of the facility and have already sought the advice of a public relations agency to help present the issue to the voters. He indicated there are large groups of citizens who are willing to devote their energies toward

advertising and/or promotion of the Civic Center Complex.

Mr. Cy Edwards, Chairman of the Outreach Committee of the Civic Center Commission, indicated that the Commission has a nucleus of several thousand persons who are desirous of seeing the complex built and that they are ready to take part in any campaign proposed.

Mr. Brad Gierke, a Member of the Commission and President of Allied Arts of Tacoma, indicated that the Allied Arts group is in full support of the program and for placement on the September 19, 1972 election ballot. He stressed the necessity of incorporating all three phases into one proposition, pointing out that 20 percent of the revenue derived from the facility is from parking.

Mrs. Katherine Haley, past president of Allied Arts, spoke in favor of the facility.

Mr. Frank Hayes, President of the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee of the Civic Center Commission, told Council that it is the committee's feeling the concept is feasible and reasonable and would fulfill a vital need in the community. He indicated the Chamber will support the project in any way possible. In response to a question by Mr. Schroeder, Mr. Hayes indicated that the cost of the Civic Center Project would approximate \$10 a year in taxes to the average \$16,000 home owner over a period of 20 years. Mr. Schroeder indicated it was an excellent investment for the City.

Mr. Charles Farr, Regional Manager for Holiday Inns in Tacoma, indicated support for the project and termed it a badly needed facility for the area. He pointed out that the average over night guest or conventioner spends about \$35 a night for room and board, which approximates 40 percent of what he spends in the community for other services.

Mr. August Von Boecklin, President of the Downtown Tacoma Association, indicated support for the project and a willingness for his organization to support the promotion of the proposition. He said the Civic Center Project is as important, if not more so, than the four Public Works propositions that may accompany it on the September ballot.

Mr. Ron Thompson, President of the Municipal League of Tacoma & Pierce County, supported the Civic Center Project and pledged the support of the 400 members of the League in selling the proposition to the voters.

Mr. Ted Amell spoke in favor of the proposition.

Mr. John Zelenak, 5414 South J, spoke in opposition to the project based on his objection to locating the facility at the proposed downtown site.

In response to a question by Dr. Herrmann, Mr. Von Boecklin stated that the business community will support the Public Works Projects as well as the Center. He stated the overall support of the bond program.

Mayor Johnston then read a letter from Mr. L. H. Pederson giving the Central Labor Council's endorsement to the Civic Center Complex.

Mr. Schroeder made a motion, seconded by Mr. Maule, that the following priorities be made in connection with submission of City propositions on the September 19 ballot.

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They are as follows:

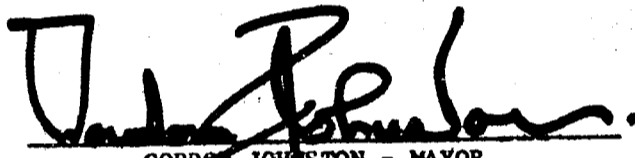
1. Civic Center
2. Street Improvements and L.I.D.'s
3. Storm Drains
4. Street Lighting
5. Consolidated Maintenance Facility

Voice vote: Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 2 - Jarstad and Sonntag. The motion was declared passed.

Mr. Lewis thanked the members of the Council for support of the project and presented Mayor Johnston with a decorated shovel, indicating what they hope will be a successful campaign for the project.

Councilmen Schroeder and Moss commended the Commission highly for their six-month effort and offered themselves in any capacity to help sell the program to the voters.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.


GORDON JOHNSTON - MAYOR

ATTEST:


A. B. BOND - CITY CLERK