

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, ON
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1979.

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The meeting was called to order at 5:10 P.M. by the presiding officer, Mayor Lila Cockrell with the following members present: CISNEROS, WEBB, DUTMER, WING, EURESTE, THOMPSON, ALDERETE, ARCHER, STEEN, COCKRELL; Absent: CANAVAN.

79-60 The invocation was given by the Reverend Louis Zbinden, First Presbyterian Church.

79-60 Members of the City Council and the audience joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States.

79-60 Mayor Cockrell explained that the purpose of the special called meeting is to consider the application of a parade permit, which has been requested by Mr. Ali Seyed Fanai Khayat, on behalf of the Iranian Muslim Organization.

City Attorney, Jane Macon explained that under the City Code, any person has a right to a hearing before the City Council on a denial of a parade permit by the City Manager. She stated that it is up to the Council to either reaffirm the decision of the City Manager or to overturn it.

Mayor Cockrell outlined the steps and procedure to be followed in the appeal hearing. She first called on Mr. Louis Linden, Attorney for the applicant, who spoke on behalf of the Iranian Muslim Organization.

Mr. Louis Linden, Attorney, stated that the City Manager had refused a parade permit to them and cited six different reasons. He stated that the group feels that the two parade demonstrations they are requesting should be granted. He stated that the Iranian Muslim Organization desires a peaceful demonstration and will in no way involve themselves in any intentional violence. He stated that the Supreme Court has held that the threat of violence in a demonstration should not prohibit such a demonstration from taking place.

Mr. Linden stated that they are asking for the application to be a continuing one requesting a parade permit for a date within five days after the decision of this body on his appeal. He stated that City Manager Huebner's statement that the hostages could be harmed is based on conjecture. He spoke in favor of free speech and free assembly.

Mr. Anthony Gonzalez spoke on behalf of the Iranian Muslim Organization receiving their parade permit. He stated that the Constitution of the United States pertains to anyone within the boundaries and also stated that the Iranians have freedom although they are not citizens. He further stated that he feels that minority groups will be affected if the Iranians are allowed to be intimidated.

Mr. Steve Marshall, Chairperson of the Socialist Worker's Party, stated that he agrees with the majority of Americans that another war not be waged. He stated that he agrees with Senator Kennedy that an open debate on the matter should be held. He stated that he feels that the Shah should not be given asylum in San Antonio, nor the United States. He further stated that the Constitution of the United States applies to everyone in this Country. He asked that the City Council grant the parade permit.

City Manager Huebner explained in detail the reasons why he felt the permit for the parade demonstration should not be granted. He cited several reasons for his decision. He stated that this is a judgement call which he had made after a long debate. He asked that the City Council support his denial of the permit.

Mr. Ricci Ware, discjockey with KBUC Radio, spoke in opposition to the granting of the parade permit. He stated that they feel that they are not causing problems, but the Iranians are the ones causing the problem. He spoke in favor of the City Manager's decision.

Mr. Lorenzo Bautista spoke in opposition to the police protection received by the Iranians, who had been sitting on the City Hall steps.

Mr. Darwin Sweeten stated that the people of this country are tired of supporting other countries that hurt our country.

Mr. Pat Broach expressed his concern that the Iranians were given the right to appear before the City Council and appeal the decision of the City Manager. He asked what rights do the hostages in Iran have. He urged the City Council to uphold the decision made by the City Manager.

Mr. Edwin Rosenfold stated that there is a limit on freedom of speech and in this case, if the parade permit should be granted a riot could be incited. He stated that Iran has committed an act of War and he felt that a declaration of war should be declared and such parade permit denied.

Mr. Robert Dominguez stated that the Americans should not be silenced and signed a petition stating that Iranians not receive any welfare. He also requested that all Iranians be deported.

Mr. John Cuellar stated that the Constitution grants freedom to citizens and doesn't feel that people that are guests of this Country should have the right to circumvent our rights. He stated that he is concerned because the Iranians, who are on the steps of City Hall, are not jailed although they have loitered and defaced public property.

Mr. Gary Woitena also spoke in opposition to the granting of a parade permit. He stated that the granting of this permit would invite a riot.

Mr. John Runnal also spoke in opposition to the granting of a parade permit.

Mr. B.R. Fellers spoke against the parade permit. He stated that he feels that a riot would result from such an action.

Mr. Linden presented the City Council with a statement by Mr. Robert Ozer, on behalf of the Texas Civil Liberties Union on parade permits for Iranian students. (A copy of this statement is on file with the minutes of this meeting.) He asked that the City Council set aside the emotions and threats of violence and grant the application to the Iranian students to demonstrate.

Mayor Cockrell declared the hearing closed.

Mrs. Dutmer stated that both sides of the question have been heard, and after reviewing the factors she made the motion that the Council uphold the Manager's decision and that permits be denied for public parades and/or demonstrations to the Iranian Muslim students and others who encompass the cause either pro or con in the Iranian question. Mr. Alderete seconded the motion. On roll call the motion carried by the following vote: AYES: Cisneros, Webb, Dutmer, Wing, Eureste, Thompson, Alderete Archer, Steen, Cockrell; NAYS: None; ABSENT: Canavan.

There being no further business to come before the Council,
the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

A P P R O V E D

Lila Lockull

M A Y O R

ATTEST:

Karna J. Rodriguez
C i t y C l e r k