

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO HELD IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT 9:00 A.M. FRIDAY  
DECEMBER 17, 1954

PRESENT: SCHERLEN, OLIVER, RUDELÖFF, DILLASHAW, RUSSELL, WHITE, LACY, BARRETT, GONZALEZ

The Clerk read the call of the meeting.

The meeting was called for the purpose of considering the proposed revision of the Personnel Rules of the City item by item in joint session with the members of the Municipal Civil Service Commission. Page by page the council members discussed the proposals and from time to time suggested changes to be made before the final draft of the rules. These agreed on changes were noted by the Commission and Director of Personnel. The consideration was still in progress when the adjournment hour arrived and further consideration was postponed until a later date.

On motion of Mr. Lacy, seconded by Mr. Barrett, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

*H. J. Dillashaw*  
MAYOR *Pro Tem*

ATTEST:

*Frank Gallo*  
City Clerk

December 17, 1954

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO HELD IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER OF THE CITY HALL ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER  
17, 1954, AT 3:00 P.M.

The Clerk read the Call of the meeting as follows:

December 17, 1954

Mr. J. Frank Gallagher, City Clerk  
City of San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Dear Sir:

Whereas, a question has been raised concerning the status of six members of the City Council as it is now functioning; and,

Whereas, the City Council on December 15, 1954, named a committee of attorneys to consult with the City Attorney for the purpose of devising some plan whereby the status of all present members of the City Council could be finally and completely determined; and

Whereas, said committee, composed of Messrs. A. N. Moursund, Van Howard, and Sylvan Lang has unanimously agreed that a special meeting of former members of the City Council should be called at which the resignations of the former councilmen Herbert Schenker, Ottis West, Mrs. Thelma Stevens, Ralph Easley, R. L. Lester, and R. N. White, Jr., should be publicly ratified, reaffirmed and reaccepted, and the appointments of their successors be ratified and reconfirmed; and,

Whereas, it is imperative for the future welfare and progress of the City of San Antonio that all doubt concerning the composition of the City Council be finally and definitively resolved;

Now, therefore, I, George W. Rice, City Manager of the City of San Antonio, hereby direct you, under the authority vested in me by the Charter of the City of San Antonio, to call a special meeting of the City Council to convene at 3:00 P.M. on the 17th day of December, 1954, in the Council Chamber at the City Hall of the City of San Antonio.

The purposes of said meeting are to have former members of the City Council publicly reaffirm their resignations previously submitted in writing; to have said resignations formally reaccepted and reconfirmed; and to reappoint and/or appoint successors to the said resigned councilmen, to the end that the composition of the City Council shall be placed beyond doubt or question.

Yours very truly,

/s/ Geo W. Rice

George W. Rice  
City Manager

Honorable R. L. Lester  
Honorable Emil O. Scherlen  
Honorable Herbert Schenker  
Honorable Thelma Stevens  
Honorable Ralph Easley  
Honorable Ottis West  
Honorable Raymond Russell, Jr.  
Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez  
Honorable R. N. White, Jr.  
Gentlemen and Lady:

Pursuant to a written request filed by George W. Rice, City Manager, you are hereby notified that a Special Session of the City Council will be held in the City Hall at 3:00 P.M., Friday, December 17, 1954, for the purpose of having former members of the City Council publicly reaffirm their resignations previously submitted in writing, to have said resignations formally reaccepted and reconfirmed, and to reappoint and/or appoint successors to resigned councilmen, to the end that the composition of the City Council shall be placed beyond doubt or question.

Yours very truly,

/s/ J. Frank Gallagher

J. Frank Gallagher  
City Clerk

Receipt of the above call of a Special Meeting of the City Council is hereby acknowledged.

/s/ Henry B. Gonzalez	/s/ R. R. Russell, Jr.
/s/ Ottis A. West	/s/ Emil O. Scherlen
/s/ Mrs. Thelma Stevens	/s/ R. L. Lester
/s/ R. N. "Dick" White, Jr.	/s/ Ralph V. Easley

/s/ Herbert M. Scherker

Honorable Mayor and Members of Council  
City of San Antonio, Texas

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to a written request filed by George W. Rice, City Manager, you are hereby notified that a Special Session of the City Council will be held in the City Hall at 3:00 P.M., Friday, December 17, 1954, for the purpose of having former members of the City Council publicly reaffirm their resignations previously submitted in writing, to have said resignations formally reaccepted and reconfirmed, and to re-appoint and/or appoint successors to resigned councilmen, to the end that the composition of the City Council shall be placed beyond doubt or question.

Yours very truly,

/s/ J. Frank Gallagher

J. Frank Gallagher  
City Clerk

Receipt of the above call of a Special Meeting of the City Council is hereby acknowledged.

/s/ R. N. White  
/s/ Walter Rudeloff  
/s/ John Oliver  
/s/ H. L. Dillashaw  
/s/ Henry B. Gonzalez

/s/ R. R. Russell, Jr.  
/s/ Glenn B. Lacy  
/s/ William L. Barrett, Jr.  
/s/ Emil O. Scherlen

The meeting was called to order by Mayor R. L. Lester and roll call showed the following present:

Emil O. Scherlen

Mrs. Thelma Stevens

Ottis West

Raymond Russell, Jr.

R. N. White, Jr.

R. L. Lester

Henry B. Gonzalez

J. Frank Gallagher, City Clerk

Carlos Cadena, City Attorney, and

George W. Rice, City Manager

ABSENT: Herbert M. Schenker and Ralph V. Easley.

The Mayor asked "What is the pleasure of the Council?"

Mr. R. N. White, Jr. introduced the following ordinance and moved its adoption.

AN ORDINANCE 20,813

RE-ACCEPTING AND/OR ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF HERBERT SCHENKER AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO; RE-APPOINTING, CONFIRMING AND RATIFYING THE APPOINTMENT OF, AND/OR APPOINTING WALTER F. RUDELOFF TO SUCCEED THE SAID HERBERT SCHENKER; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

( Full text in Ordinance Book AA page 437)

After a second by Mrs. Stevens, the roll call showed the following on its adoption: AYES, Scherlen, Stevens, West, Russell, White, Lester, Gonzalez; NAYS, none; ABSENT, Schenker and Easley.

The City Clerk then administered the oath of office and loyalty oath to Mr. Rudeloff and he was seated as a member of council, Place No. 3.

December 17, 1954

Mr. Scherlen then introduced the following ordinance and moved its adoption.

AN ORDINANCE 20,814

RE-ACCEPTING AND/OR ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF RALPH EASLEY AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO; RE-APPOINTING, CONFIRMING AND RATIFYING THE APPOINTMENT OF, AND/OR APPOINTING GLENN B. LACEY TO SUCCEED THE SAID RALPH EASLEY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

( Full text in Ordinance Book AA page 437 )

After a second by Mr. White, the roll call showed its adoption by the following: AYES, Scherlen, Stevens, Rudeloff, West, Russell, White, Lester, Gonzalez; NAYS, none; ABSENT, Easley.

The City Clerk then administered the oath of office and loyalty oath to Mr. Lacy and he assumed his seat as Member of Council, Place No. 7.

Mr. White then introduced the following ordinance and moved its adoption.

AN ORDINANCE 20,815

RE-ACCEPTING AND/OR ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF OTTIS WEST AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO; RE-APPOINTING, CONFIRMING AND RATIFYING THE APPOINTMENT OF, AND/OR APPOINTING H. L. DILLASHAW TO SUCCEED THE SAID OTTIS WEST; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

( Full text in Ordinance Book AA page 437 )

After a second by Mr. Rudeloff, the roll call showed the following on its adoption: AYES, Scherlen, Stevens, Rudeloff, Russell, White, Lacy, Lester, Gonzalez; NAYS, none; NOT VOTING, West.

The City Clerk then administered the oath of office and loyalty oath to Mr. Dillashaw and he assumed the seat as Member of Council, Place No. 4.

Mr. Rudeloff then introduced the following ordinance and moved its adoption.

AN ORDINANCE 20,816

RE-ACCEPTING AND/OR ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF MRS. THELMA STEVENS AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO; RE-APPOINTING, CONFIRMING AND RATIFYING THE APPOINTMENT OF, AND/OR APPOINTING JOHN OLIVER TO SUCCEED THE SAID MRS. THELMA STEVENS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

( Full text in Ordinance Book AA page 438 )

After a second by Mr. Lacy, the roll call on its adoption showed the following result. AYES, Scherlen, Rudeloff, Dillashaw, Russell, White, Lacy, Lester, Gonzalez. NAYS, none. NOT VOTING, Mrs. Stevens.

The Clerk then administered the oath of office to Mr. Oliver and he assumed his seat as Member of Council, Place No. 2.

Mr. Rudeloff then moved that Mr. Dillashaw be elected to act as Mayor Pro-tem. After a second by Mr. Oliver, the motion was carried by the following vote: AYES, Scherlen, Oliver, Rudeloff, Russell, White, Lacy, Lester, Gonzalez; NAYS, none; NOT VOTING, Dillashaw.

The Clerk then administered the oath of office and loyalty oath as Mayor Pro-tem to Mr. Dillashaw.

Mr. Russell then introduced the following ordinance and moved its adoption.

AN ORDINANCE 20,817

RE-ACCEPTING AND/OR ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF R. N. WHITE, JR. AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO; RE-APPOINTING, CONFIRMING AND RATIFYING THE APPOINTMENT OF AND/OR APPOINTING R. N. WHITE, SR. TO SUCCEED THE SAID R. N. WHITE, JR; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

( Full text in Ordinance Book AA page 438 )

December 17, 1954

After a second by Mr. Rudeloff, the roll call on its adoption showed the following result. AYES, Scherlen, Oliver, Rudeloff, Dillashaw, Russell, Lacy, Lester, Gonzalez; NAYS, none; NOT VOTING, R. N. White, Jr.

The Clerk then administered the oath of office and loyalty oath to Mr. R. N. White, (Sr.) and he assumed his seat as Councilman, Place No. 6.

Mr. Gonzalez then introduced the following ordinance and moved its adoption.

AN ORDINANCE 20,818

RE-ACCEPTING AND/OR ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF R. L. LESTER AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO; RE-APPOINTING, CONFIRMING AND RATIFYING THE APPOINTMENT OF, AND/OR APPOINTING WILLIAM L. BARRETT, JR. TO SUCCEED THE SAID R. L. LESTER; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

( Full text in Ordinance Book AA page 439)

After a second by Mr. Oliver, Mr. Lester vacated his seat as presiding officer and the Mayor Pro-tem took the chair.

A roll call vote showed the following result on the adoption of the ordinance: AYES, Scherlen, Oliver, Rudeloff, Dillashaw, Russell, R. N. White (Sr.), Lacy, Gonzalez; NAYS, none; NOT VOTING, Lester.

Mr. Barrett was then sworn in as member of Council by the Clerk and he took the loyalty oath and assumed his seat as Councilman, Place No. 8.

Mr. Rudeloff then moved that Mr. R. N. White (Sr) be elected as Mayor. After a second by Mr. Oliver, the roll call vote on Mr. White's election showed the following result. AYES, Scherlen, Oliver, Rudeloff, Dillashaw, Russell, Lacy, Barrett and Gonzalez. NAYS, none. NOT VOTING, White.

Mr. White then took the oath as Mayor and also the loyalty oath and assumed the Chair as Mayor and Presiding Officer.

Mr. Russell then introduced, for the record, the following letters and asked that they be incorporated in the minutes by unanimous consent, there were no objections.

City Council  
City of San Antonio, Texas

Gentlemen:

It is our understanding that the Bond Counsel employed by the City of San Antonio have expressed themselves as being unwilling to approve the validity of the Highway Bond Issue and the Sewage Bond Issue of the City of San Antonio, in the absence of further proceedings and/or actions and on the record as it stands at present.

Your committee was appointed to confer with the City Attorney as to the best method of resolving pending questions. We are pleased to advise:

1. That the determination of this question through litigation would require a period of many months.
2. That the most expeditious and feasible method of resolving these doubts would be to have a meeting of the former council members, and for them to accept resignations and elect to office, by a vote of five or more members, those councilmen whose authority to act might be questioned, and who are now functioning as councilmen of the City of San Antonio.

Yours very truly,

/s/ A. N. Moursund  
/s/ Van H. Howard, Jr.  
/s/ Sylvan Lang

December 17, 1954

Mr. Raymond R. Russell, Jr.  
San Antonio, Texas

Dear Mr. Russell:

This is to inform you that I wholeheartedly concur and join in the recommendation of Messrs. Moursund, Lang and Howard to the effect that a special meeting of the old City Council be called immediately for the purpose of validating beyond question the present Council.

Yours very truly,

/s/ Carlos C. Cadena

Carlos C. Cadena  
City Attorney

Mr. Sylvan Lang representing the Chamber of Commerce then was recognized by the Mayor and made a few remarks complimenting all council members, new and old, also the disinterested attorney, who had been most helpful and stated that all of San Antonio should be grateful to Mr. Leslie Neal, the head of the Chamber of Commerce Good Road Committee, for his untiring efforts and wished the council the smooth sailing which appeared in the offing.

Mr. Leslie Neal then addressed the council and congratulated all concerned, both new and old, on their achievement.

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On motion of Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Gonzalez, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

*R. W. White*  
Mayor

*J. D. Dillashaw*  
MAYOR - Pro Tem

ATTEST:

*Frank Galligan*  
City Clerk