

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO HELD IN  
THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL,  
MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1962, AT 8:30 AM.

\* \* \* \* \*

A special meeting of the City Council was called to order by the Presiding Officer, Mayor Walter W. McAllister, with the following members present: MC ALLISTER, DE LA GARZA, KAUFMAN, PADILLA AND PARKER; ABSENT: ROHLFS, GUNSTREAM, GATTI AND BREMER.

The Mayor explained the meeting was called for the purpose of hearing the point of view of any citizen regarding proposed charter changes. One of the reasons that he felt had made the charter amendments urgent was the decision regarding school district taxes and the assessment of a fee for the services rendered.

He said it was a question that did not amount to anything when the school district and city limits coincided, but today the school district has 36 square miles and the city some 160 square miles. People who occupy some 125 square miles pay city taxes for a service that the city renders to one particular section of the City. He said it was not a very fair operation and wanted the citizens to have an opportunity to decide what they wanted to do about it.

He explained that he learned recently that it was the City Attorney's opinion that since the State Legislature had passed a law that the city should render the service for the San Antonio Independent School District, a Charter Amendment would not be binding; therefore, one of the most important reasons for holding the election no longer exists and it might be well to postpone the election until after the next session of the Legislature. Representatives of Bexar County could introduce a bill to change the existing law and if passed, then there could be no question about holding the election.

Mrs. Sid Cockrell, President of the League of Women Voters, expressed appreciation for the Council's decision to hold a public hearing on the amendments. She stated the League has followed with interest the work of the Charter Committees and the League supports Council-Manager form of government in the City, and felt the charter as written originally has the support of the majority of the citizens. No study was made of the technical aspects of the charter changes, but the League devoted a great deal of time to the method of election of the Mayor and it was the consensus of the League that the present method of electing the Mayor was the best method. She questioned whether this amendment should even be placed on the ballot. She stated the Charter Committee recommended against placing it on the ballot and, at the informal meeting of the Council, the Councilmen stated that in their opinion the method should not be changed.

Mrs. Mike Passur and Mrs. Rueben Dietert were in favor of the present method of election of the Mayor; increase insalary for councilman not to exceed \$2,500.00; a filing fee for candidates, and a charge for collecting and assessing school taxes.

Also discussed were terms of office for Councilmen on a two, three and four-year basis. Mrs. Cockrell expressed no opinion but gave the conclusion of the Research and Planning Council Report No. 9 of November 1959, in which it was stated that when continuity in government was carried to an extreme you can get in a rut, and there was no evidence that a four-year term

August 20, 1962

will attract better and capable candidates.

Also discussed were advantages and disadvantages dividing the City into four quadrants or districts and have a councilman from each district with the other councilmen elected at large.

Councilman Kaufman, who had served as a committee of one to investigate some of the proposed amendments, stated he was impressed with the work of both Charter Committees, and his feeling substantially followed that of the Committees.

He stated further that because of the timing on this one proposition regarding school district taxes, he felt it would be a mistake to have an election now because the City could not effect a change of the present method to allow a charge for collecting taxes and eliminate the unfairness that now exists. If an election was held it would be two years before another election could be permissible. He believed the City should attempt to reconcile its differences with responsible people of the School Board and see if they could arrive at some meeting of minds on this matter.

Councilman Parker concurred with Mr. Kaufman. Councilman Padilla also felt the election should be postponed until a later date.

The Mayor thanked all persons present for their interest in City Government, and announced no action would be taken until other members of the Council returned from vacation but was inclined to believe that the election would not be called at this time.

- - -

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

- - -

A P P R O V E D:

M A Y O R

A T T E S T:

C i t y C l e r k