

In the Auditorium of the Monroe County Public Library, at 7:30 p.m., E.S.T., with Council President Charlotte Zietlow presiding, January 25, 1973.

Present: All Nine Councilmembers were in attendance.

ROLL CALL

James Wray, Director of Transportation; Grace Johnson, City Clerk; James Register, Corporate Counsel; Mayoral Aide, Ted Najam; Tom Crossman, Planning Director; Stewart Reller, Senior Planner.

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT

About 60 people including members of the press.

OTHERS PRESENT

Councilpresident Zietlow called the meeting to order.

Councilman Behen moved that Appropriations Ordinance No. 73-1 be removed from the table for reconsideration. Councilman Mizell seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Appropriations
Ordinance No. 73-1

Councilpresident Zietlow noted that new information had been obtained on the question of purchasing buses since the Council met on January 18, 1973.

Jim Wray addressed the Council; he said that some questions had been raised when the Council first considered the Appropriations Ordinance and that he has been able to get some answers. He said that it would be possible to get the two vans back on the street by February first as this would clearly be only an intermediate measure. He said he had contacted various manufacturers and had determined that Mercedes has six buses that the City could have in a few weeks. He said that the Administration was proposing that the Appropriations Ordinance be approved by the Council which would enable the City to then advertise for bids for vehicles, the bid to be awarded for the company able to meet the specifications at the lowest price, within the time specified. He said that he thought the time factor would be an important element in awarding the bid. He said the Mercedes buses would cost between \$15,000 and \$16,000, with a provision for repainting if required. He said that the City has received a letter from Mercedes Benz that they can make delivery on six buses in three weeks.

Mr. Wray said the specifications would be for 19- passenger diesel engine buses.

Councilman Morrison commented that it is better to gamble with revenue sharing money which is essentially a wind-fall than with general fund tax revenues; he said for the bus system to work would require extraordinary promotion.

Councilpresident Zietlow noted that Mercedes will train city mechanics to work on the buses. Mr. Wray said that there will also be a Mercedes dealer opening in Bloomington which would be back-up for repairs and ordering parts if necessary.

Councilman Ackerman asked about the ability of the buses to meet emission control standards. Mr. Wray said the Mercedes buses will meet specifications through 1975 and as far as he knew there has been no additional specifications set by the federal government beyond those set for 1975.

Councilman Behen said that he originally thought that one quarter of a million dollars was an exorbitant figure, but from what he has learned in the last week, he has changed his mind. He noted that the costs of the buses now proposed is less than originally assumed and he guessed that the maintenance costs would also be less than anticipated in the budget since the vehicles will be new. He said that this is not just something the Council has considered the last few weeks; it is something they have all thought about for a long time. He said he has received lots of phone calls, both pro and con buses. He said he was not in favor of simply getting more small vans with cramped seating; he said that if the City is going to have a mass transit system it should be a good one; it would be an indignation to ask people to ride on the small, cramped vehicles. Councilman Behen said that he would encourage the press to get behind the transit system and make it work.

The question was called on taking a revote on Appropriations Ordinance No. 73-1.

APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE No. 73-1 WAS ADOPTED
BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF AYES 9, Nays 0.

Councilman Morrison clarified his vote saying that he was voting for the program as a councilman not as a businessman.

Councilman Fix noted that it was fitting to take this vote in the public library, one of the facilities that would be made accessible by a transit system.

Councilman Behen said that he would vote in favor of the buses if he could be appointed to a promotion committee for the transit system.

Councilman Davis said that his previous abstention was a reflection of having to choose between a system on the streets in six months and a system on the streets in one year; in six months it would be a system without planning. Councilman Davis said that he could not vote against mass transit but that he could not vote for either of the alternatives originally presented. He said he wanted to remind people that this appropriation for six buses does not take care of our obligations for mass transit; the technical study will be finished in July and he said he expected it would show we need a more extensive and expensive system. Councilman Davis said he would continue to support the planning process.

Councilman Towell said that all members of the council ran on a platform of mass transportation and he was pleased with passage of the ordinance. Councilman De St. Croix said he was also pleased with the passage.

Councilman Towell moved that the meeting which began on January 18, 1973, be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Councilman De St. Croix and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

The Council meeting of January 18, 1973,
was adjourned at 7:50 p.m., E.S.T., on
January 25, 1973.

ADJOURNMENT

Charlotte T. Zietlow
Charlotte T. Zietlow, President

ATTEST:

Amy G. Mann
Amy G. Mann, Secretary