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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

RECESSED STATED MEETING

- - -

Friday, March 13, 1998
12:45 p.m.
Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- - -

RE: Bill and Resolution (not numbered)
on SEPTA negotiations.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHN F. STREET
COUNCILWOMAN AUGUSTA A. CLARK
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN
COUNCILWOMAN ANNA CIBOTTA VERNA
COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO
COUNCILMAN ANGEL L. ORTIZ
COUNCILMAN FRANK DICICCO
COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

MARIE B. HAUSER, Chief Clerk

- - -

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1 RECESSED COMMITTEE OF WHOLE RE SEPTA NEGOTIATIONS
2 P R O C E E D I N G S.

3 PRESIDENT STREET: May I have your
4 attention, please.

5 City Council Members are going to
6 convene in the caucus room. We're going to have a
7 caucus, at which time the Union will address
8 Council Members. We will stay in recess.

9 Council members will now go to the City
10 Council caucus room. And Union members and
11 members of the press are invited to come to the
12 caucus room.

13 (Council Members, Union members, press
14 members recess to Caucus room.)

15 - - -

16 (1:20 p.m.)

17 PRESIDENT STREET: Good afternoon,
18 ladies and gentlemen. This is a recessed session
19 of Council's regular meeting of Thursday, March
20 12th. We voted yesterday to stand in recess until
21 12 o'clock today.

22 We have just had a caucus, at which the
23 TWU representatives have addressed Council, and
24 several recommendations were made. It has been
25 agreed that the Members of Council will meet with

1 RECESSED COMMITTEE OF WHOLE RE SEPTA NEGOTIATIONS
2 the Mayor and the representatives of the SEPTA
3 Board at 3 o'clock in the Mayor's Office, and have
4 agreed that the Council should stand in recess
5 until 3:30 this afternoon, at which time it has
6 been requested that the representatives of the TWU
7 return to City Council, and that Mr. David L.
8 Cohen and Mr. Jack Leary also come to City Council
9 at that time.

10 At this point, Council will stand in
11 recess until 3:30 this afternoon, Friday, the 13th
12 of March.

13 Thank you.

14 (Council stands in recess until 5:05
15 p.m.)

16 - - -

17 PRESIDENT STREET: We're asking all
18 Council Members to come to the chamber. All
19 Council Members, please come to the Council
20 chamber.

21 (City Council Members file into
22 chamber.)

23 PRESIDENT STREET: Good afternoon,
24 ladies and gentlemen. This is a recessed session
25 of the City Council session which was scheduled

1 RECESSED COMMITTEE OF WHOLE RE SEPTA NEGOTIATIONS
2 for Thursday, March 12, 1998. This session was
3 recessed until 12 o'clock, today, Friday, March
4 the 13th. We then recessed until 5 o'clock. It
5 is now shortly after 5.

6 As a result of a number of meetings
7 that Council Members have had with the Mayor, the
8 City's representatives on the SEPTA Board, SEPTA
9 General Manager Mr. Leary, and one of the
10 consultants to the negotiators, Mr. David L.
11 Cohen.

12 I believe there are a couple of Council
13 Members who at this time would like to offer
14 resolutions.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Verna
16 for a motion that the rules of Council be
17 suspended to permit immediate introduction and
18 consideration of --

19 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: -- of all
20 resolutions.

21 PRESIDENT STREET: -- all resolutions.

22 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: I so move, Mr.
23 President.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 PRESIDENT STREET: All in favor, let it

1 RECESSED COMMITTEE OF WHOLE RE SEPTA NEGOTIATIONS
2 be known by saying aye.

3 All opposed, say nay.

4 The ayes have it. The rules are
5 suspended.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. President, I
8 offer one bill.

9 PRESIDENT STREET: The Clerk will
10 please read the title of the bill.

11 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: An ordinance
12 authorizing --

13 PRESIDENT STREET: Can we get a
14 microphone, please.

15 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: An ordinance
16 authorizing transfers in appropriations for Fiscal
17 Year 1998 within the General Fund from the
18 Department of Public Property City Subsidy for
19 SEPTA to the Council.

20 PRESIDENT STREET: This bill will be
21 referred to the appropriate committee.

22 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Mr. President, I'm
24 in the process of offering one resolution.

25 PRESIDENT STREET: The Clerk will read

1 RECESSED COMMITTEE OF WHOLE RE SEPTA NEGOTIATIONS
2 the resolution which Councilman Nutter is in the
3 process of introducing as soon as he has completed
4 the process.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Mr. President, I
6 offer one resolution.

7 PRESIDENT STREET: The Clerk will
8 please read the resolution, the title of the
9 resolution.

10 Hopefully, enough copies are available
11 to circulate to members of the press. Do we have
12 copies? Please make them available to members of
13 the media.

14 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: A resolution
15 denouncing any attempt by the SEPTA Board of SEPTA
16 management to use administrative or supervisory
17 employees who are not members of TWU 234 to
18 operate the City Division of the SEPTA system in
19 the event of a strike, because this is an
20 anti-Union action and will create a dangerous and
21 risky environment for the ridership;

22 And strongly urge the City to bar any
23 such personnel from operating SEPTA vehicles when
24 the transportation infrastructure owned by the
25 City of Philadelphia and calling for all parties

1 RECESSED COMMITTEE OF WHOLE RE SEPTA NEGOTIATIONS
2 who are fully authorized to negotiate to continue
3 negotiation in good faith, around the clock in
4 order to avert a strike and reach agreement.

5 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair recognizes
6 Councilman Nutter.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Mr. President, I
8 move the adoption of the resolution and wish to be
9 heard on it.

10 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair recognizes
11 Councilman Nutter.

12 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Mr.
13 President.

14 Mr. President, I can report that all
15 Members present have signed this resolution. I
16 think it is a very serious matter.

17 We cannot afford to have a system in
18 operation with thousands of Philadelphians riding
19 that system run by personnel -- with all due
20 respect to any of the management people, they are
21 not the people who run this system on a regular
22 basis.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All we are asking
25 for, Mr. President, is continuous negotiations.

1 RECESSED COMMITTEE OF WHOLE RE SEPTA NEGOTIATIONS
2 We want to avert a strike, and we want the people
3 who know what they are doing to run that system
4 come Sunday morning.

5 Thank you, Mr. President.

6 (Applause.)

7 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very much.

8 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. President, I
10 wanted to express my appreciation --

11 PRESIDENT STREET: Councilman Cohen, do
12 you have your microphone handy?

13 (Councilman Cohen adjusts his
14 microphone.)

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. President, I
16 wanted to use this opportunity in speaking in
17 support of this resolution and to express my
18 thanks and, I believe, the thanks of all Members
19 of City Council to the leadership and the
20 membership of Local 234 in persisting and bringing
21 this matter to our attention.

22 I think that the work of this City
23 Council over the last two days has brought for the
24 first time a glimmer of hope that the lines, as
25 Councilman Nutter expressed, may continue to be

1 RECESSED COMMITTEE OF WHOLE RE SEPTA NEGOTIATIONS
2 working.

3 I think for the first time there is the
4 possibility that a strike can be averted on terms
5 that would be satisfactory to management and that
6 would respect the rights of all of the workers.
7 So to them, we say thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair recognizes
10 Councilman Mariano.

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. President, just
12 one last thing. And if there were a strike, my
13 personal wish is for good luck. But we hope it
14 won't happen.

15 (Applause.)

16 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair recognizes
17 Councilman Mariano.

18 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you, Mr.
19 President.

20 I'd like to thank Councilman Nutter and
21 the rest of my colleagues here, and I'd like to
22 thank the members of Local 234.

23 And I just wanted to reiterate what I
24 said in City Council caucus so that everybody who
25 wasn't there understands Philadelphia has long

1 RECESSED COMMITTEE OF WHOLE RE SEPTA NEGOTIATIONS
2 been a union town and will remain a union town.

3 And another word for management
4 operating trains -- and I will say what I said in
5 caucus, a scab is a scab is a scab. And they
6 would be scabs if they would do that, and that
7 will never happen in Philadelphia.

8 Thank you.

9 (Standing ovation.)

10 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very much.

11 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
12 Blackwell.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Mr.
14 President.

15 I certainly am proud to support the
16 resolution introduced by Councilman Nutter and
17 also would like to associate myself with the
18 comments made by Councilman Cohen and Councilman
19 Mariano.

20 I would like to say that we appreciate
21 the commitment of this Union. We are glad that
22 they brought the issue to a public forum so that
23 we better understand what some of their concerns
24 are.

25 And I would like to finalize my

1 RECESSED COMMITTEE OF WHOLE RE SEPTA NEGOTIATIONS
2 comments by saying that we in Council are
3 absolutely committed to the citizens of this
4 City. And we are willing and have tried to do all
5 that we can to show that in our actions and deeds,
6 that we don't want a strike.

7 We want this City to move. And we are
8 committed to do whatever we can from here out to
9 see that that happens.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair recognizes
13 Councilwoman Clark.

14 COUNCILWOMAN CLARK: Thank you, Mr.
15 President.

16 I would like to rise in favor of the
17 resolution and to say that the recurring theme
18 from both parties to this conflict is a necessity
19 to talk. And this resolution calls on all parties
20 who have the authority to bind the parties to
21 enter into nonstop negotiations until an amicable
22 solution is reached.

23 And our hope is that the good faith
24 around the clock will result in peaceful
25 negotiations and obviate the necessity for a

1 RECESSED COMMITTEE OF WHOLE RE SEPTA NEGOTIATIONS
2 strike.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very much.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Mr.

8 President.

9 Mr. President, I'm also very pleased to
10 have signed and be supportive of this resolution.
11 And I hope SEPTA's listening loud and clear, that
12 we don't want a strike, and we don't want this
13 system being operated by anyone other than the
14 Transport Union employees.

15 Thank you, Mr. President.

16 (Applause.)

17 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very much.

18 The Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Mr.

20 President.

21 I speak also -- and Marian Tasco is
22 here leaning over. I also rise in support of the
23 resolution, but also I think that a unanimous
24 aspect of this resolution in which all of City
25 Council is joining together sends a very clear

1 RECESSED COMMITTEE OF WHOLE RE SEPTA NEGOTIATIONS
2 message: We want negotiations, we don't want a
3 strike.

4 But it also sends a message to the
5 SEPTA Board that you cannot impose a deal without
6 giving up something, that negotiations implies
7 that there is a give and take.

8 I think TWU is willing to go to the
9 table and say that because they have said that to
10 us here. And I believe that that is what is
11 needed at this point in order to come to a
12 resolution.

13 And to the individuals that live in the
14 suburbs: We are the City, and we are the
15 metropolitan area. Without us, the suburbs do not
16 exist. And without us --

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So understand that
19 the workers need a fair treatment, they need a
20 fair contract, and we do not need to balance
21 SEPTA's problems on the back of the Union.

22 So that's what we're asking. We're
23 saying negotiate and negotiate fairly. And
24 negotiate around the clock because, as this
25 Council has talked and said and has stated, the

1 RECESSED COMMITTEE OF WHOLE RE SEPTA NEGOTIATIONS
2 political leadership of this City stands with the
3 workers.

4 (Standing ovation.)

5 PRESIDENT STREET: All those in favor
6 of the motion, let it be known by saying aye.

7 All those opposed, say nay.

8 The ayes have it. The resolution is
9 adopted.

10 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
11 Verna.

12 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Thank you, Mr.
13 President. I move that Council stand adjourned
14 until Thursday, March the 19th, 1998, at 10 a.m.

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 PRESIDENT STREET: All those in favor,
17 let it be known by saying aye.

18 All those opposed, say nay.

19 The ayes have it.

20 This Council stands adjourned until
21 Thursday, March 19, 1998, at 10 o'clock a.m., in
22 this chamber.

23 (Adjourned at 5:20 p.m.)

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RE: RECESSED STATED MEETING

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SEPTA NEGOTIATIONS

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JOSEPHINE CARDILLO, RPR