

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes of Special Meeting
of the Board of Directors of the District

September 13, 1976

On notice duly given, the Board of Directors of the Southern California Rapid Transit District met at a special meeting in the District Board Room, 425 South Main Street, Los Angeles, California, at 10:05 a.m. on September 13, 1976, at which time President Byron E. Cook called the meeting to order.

Directors present:

George W. Brewster	Thomas G. Neusom
Byron E. Cook	Jay B. Price
Donald Gibbs (entered at 10:35 a.m.)	Ruth E. Richter
Marvin L. Holen	Charles H. Storing
Mike Lewis	George Takei

Director absent:

Baxter Ward

Staff present:

Jack R. Gilstrap, General Manager
George W. Heinle, Manager of Operations
Jack Stubbs, Asst. General Manager for Administration
John S. Wilkens, Manager of Employee Relations
Richard T. Powers, General Counsel
George L. McDonald, Manager of Planning & Marketing
Joe B. Scatchard, Controller-Treasurer-Auditor
Richard K. Kissick, Secretary

Also present were members of the public and the news media.

Board of Directors Recessed in Executive Session at 10:07 a.m.

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board of Directors recessed in Executive Session at 10:07 a.m. to consider labor matters.

The Board reconvened at 11:34 a.m. with all Directors present except Director Ward, who was absent from the meeting.

Following Roll Call, President Cook presented the following statement:

"We have met in Executive Session. As you may know, Mr. Earl Clark of the United Transportation Union has challenged me to debate the issues of the strike of drivers, which is now entering its fourth week. I welcome this opportunity to discuss the issues with Mr. Clark in public, and commend him for being willing to debate the issues in public.

I am exercising the traditional right of the one challenged to select the time and the place of our meeting. I am suggesting the setting of the debate be the resumption of negotiations to be held in public as soon as arrangements can be made.

I am certain there will be much interest in these negotiating discussions and, by holding them publicly, we will be performing an important service to taxpayers, bus riders and union members. If it appears the State Building Auditorium will not provide sufficient seating capacity, then I suggest the negotiations be held in some other, larger centrally-located auditorium.

We feel that public discussion can well bring a clearing of the air in this strike and consequently are addressing an invitation to the leadership of the Amalgamated Transit Union representing our mechanical maintenance personnel to also join us in public negotiations.

The RTD Board met in Executive Session again this morning to discuss matters involved in the strike. Our position has not changed, and our offers of August 22 are still on the table. The ceilings of our offers of 19.47% to the UTU and 18.24% to the ATU remain unchanged, but there are numerous items contained in our offers, and we are willing to discuss each individual item in detail.

We at the RTD have long been in favor of public negotiations. Mr. Gilstrap and I appeared before the legislature a year ago in behalf of AB 1723, which would have provided for public negotiations of transit labor disputes. AB 1723 would have provided for three steps that I believe would do much to prevent work stoppages of California transit systems. It would have required that management would have to make a firm offer in contractual negotiations, that the union membership would have an opportunity to vote in secret on the offer, and that all negotiating sessions would be held in public.

I might note here that Mr. Clark of the UTU and Mr. Long of the ATU appeared before the Legislature in opposition to AB 1723, which failed to pass. I don't know why they would want to deny their members the right to attend contract negotiations.

Now, in the matter of public attitude. A week ago Friday, on September 3, I, as President of the Board of Directors, dispatched a Mailgram to the Mayors of all 78 incorporated cities in Los Angeles County. The Mailgram constituted a simple request that the cities not stand aside in this matter, but rather take a position either for the stand of the Board of Directors or for the union leadership. This morning the staff reported to us the preliminary results of our request.

Please bear in mind that because of the Labor Day holiday the cities had had really only four days in which to deliberate this matter, and placing something like this on the agenda of a City Council usually cannot be done over night. You might keep in mind that some of these cities meet every two weeks and not weekly.

However, we were told this morning that of the 12 cities which have thus far taken a position on this matter, all 12 support the RTD position. The cities in support of our positions are:

Baldwin Park	Rancho Palos Verdes
Covina	Redondo Beach
El Segundo	San Gabriel
La Verne	Temple City
Pasadena	Whittier
Pico Rivera	Burbank

This morning we received additional comments in response to the Mailgram. They are all in favor of the RTD position. (Long Beach, Huntington Park, Lynwood, Arcadia, Maywood, Compton, Alhambra) So far we have not had a single resolution of a city in the 78 cities of the District that has taken a contrary position to the position of this Board.

If this initial response is indicative of how our request will be treated, it seems quite clear that local government is in strong support of our posture. As a City Councilman, this is not at all surprising to me. The impact of increased government costs impacting the purchasing power of all of our residents -- whether or not they use the government services -- is painfully apparent at virtually every meeting of every City Council in the area. This is where the action is, and this is where the reaction to spiralling government costs, wages and salaries is taking place.

I directed the staff to transmit this preliminary response to the union leadership. I believe these people lobbying for excessive salary increases for the drivers and mechanics they represent are out of touch with the taxpayer reality of 1976, and they would do well to consider most carefully this initial unanimous response on the part of local government."

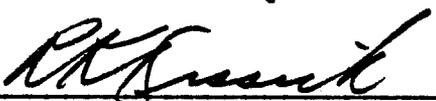
Appearance of Mr. Howard Watts

Mr. Howard Watts, 1021 North Mariposa, Los Angeles, appeared before the Board and read a letter which he had addressed to the District on August 31, a copy of which is filed with the Secretary.

Mr. Watts made several suggestions, including a request that the union members vote on the District's wage offers and that all proposals be made public.

Mr. Watts was advised that his suggestions would be taken under advisement.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.


Secretary